

# the johns hopkins News-Letter

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## Looking to the future as a female graduate

By CATHERINE PALMER  
Managing Editor

In just a few weeks, hundreds of women will be graduating from Hopkins and preparing to take the next steps in their academic and professional lives.

One concern that many of these students share is how gender may affect their futures. *The News-Letter* sat down with six women who are graduating this year to discuss their time at Hopkins, their career aspirations and the prospect of work and family.

Life in the Arts and Sciences

Senior Lauren Altus is a Writing

Seminars major and English minor and plans on taking a gap year to apply to law school. She reflected on her time at Hopkins, emphasizing how she has had a good mix of male and female professors who were not afraid to analyze gender issues in literature. "I've really loved my professors," Altus said. "I've gotten to have really interesting conversations... [about] how are they treating the female characters as an author versus other characters."

Senior Piper Sheren, an International Studies and political science double major, and women, gender and sexuality studies minor, will be attending Columbia Law School next year.

Though she has felt supported by her professors and fellow students at Hopkins, she points out that gender discrimination remains a pervasive problem.

"I think in any field that's not primarily dominated by women, there's going to be that moment where you're like 'that's not quite right about something,'" Sheren said.

Senior Isis Dwyer, an anthropology and cognitive science double major who will be starting New York University's

Master's Program in physical anthropology in the fall.

Looking back at her time at Hopkins, she appreciated her department's diverse faculty.

"I've only had professors of color. I've had professors who are Latino and South Asian during my time here as well as Middle Eastern," Dwyer said.

Junior Astha Berry, a Medicine, Science and the Humanities (MSH) major, is graduating early to begin

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"I don't want any of us to have to say 'no' to things that we want."

— LAUREN ALTUS  
SENIOR



FILE PHOTO

Through HCPI, the University has devoted \$10 million to be spent over five years to benefit 10 local neighborhoods such as Charles Village.

## Can University and community interests align?

By MEAGAN PEOPLES  
Voices Editor

Many have criticized the University for ignoring the needs of local residents and solely acting to promote its own interests.

However, the Homewood Community Partners Initiative (HCPI), a University-sponsored plan to invest in and improve the areas surrounding the Homewood campus, seeks to reconcile the interests of Hopkins and local communities.

HCPI is largely unknown among Hopkins students, and yet the University implemented this initiative in part because of them.

By developing its surrounding neighborhoods, the University aims to attract and

retain prospective students.

Where does Hopkins fit in?

The University commissioned HCPI with the help of the Central Baltimore Partnership (CBP). CBP has worked to guide the development and improvement of Central Baltimore, an area that includes 10 neighborhoods, one commercial district and all of Homewood campus.

As one of the founding and governing members of CBP, the University is currently working alongside 91 other institutions, non-profits, corporations and community organizations to support neighborhoods by improving education, housing and commercial enterprises.

In 2012, the University funded a comprehensive

study headed by Joseph McNeely, the former executive director and founder of CBP, to learn more about the needs of 10 neighborhoods located just south of campus.

They include Abell, Barclay, Charles North, Charles Village, Greenmount West, Harwood, Oakenshawe, Old Goucher, Remington, Wyman Park and the commercial district Waverly Main Street.

After seven months, the University released

its findings in a report titled "The Homewood Community Partners Initiative, A Call to Action: Findings and Recommendations." The CBP adopted the report as its guiding agenda.

The plan details goals that address community concerns, which include vacant housing, sanitation, safety, public education, retail development and local hiring. For example, they aim to add 3,000 households to central

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## Spring Fair adapts to University restrictions



COURTESY OF ALYSSA WOODEN

Students enjoyed food vendors on the Freshman Quad last weekend.

By VALERIE CHAVEZ  
Staff Writer

Construction and administrative decisions created challenges for the 46th annual Spring Fair, which took place last weekend.

Spring Fair organizers had to relocate vendors from their usual location on Keyser Quad. They also moved the Friday night concert, featuring ASAP Ferg and Steve Aoki, to an off-campus venue at Ram's Head Live!

Spring Fair is the largest student-run festival in the country. Open to both Hopkins students and the Baltimore community, it featured live music, arts and crafts vendors, food trucks, a beer garden and other activities.

In previous years, Spring Fair hosted its concerts on the Homewood practice field. Freshman Camille Bowman, a Spring Fair staff member, explained why the University did not allow the concert to take place on campus.

"We had to have the

concert at Ram's Head, because they wouldn't let us use the practice field, since they spent a lot of money redoing the turf," she said.

Although Spring Fair provided free transportation to the concert via JHMI shuttles, some students like sophomore Ryan Dens said that while students were able to get to the venue easily, the off-campus location caused confusion.

"There was a little bit of a craze to get onto the buses," Dens said. "Everyone thought they were going to miss the event but there ended up being plenty of buses."

Sophomore Sanat Deshpande echoed Dens' complaint about the concert's relocation and felt concerned about student safety.

"Some people were getting really really rowdy and trying to push and shove, so that wasn't too fun," Deshpande said. "That was definitely a low point of the night."

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## Startup offers support for med school applicants

By SIRI TUMMALA  
Staff Writer

While medical schools accept around 70 percent of Hopkins applicants each year, many students find the application process challenging. To address this problem, two Hopkins alumni and one current student created White Coat Strategists (WCS), a company that helps students prepare for medical school admissions.

After being accepted into medical school themselves, founders Haziq Siddiqi, Lamin Sonko and Melaku Arega wanted to make the application process easier for other students.

They aimed to create

an affordable consulting program that employs recent graduates who have personal experience with the application process.

Beginning May 5, WCS will charge \$400 to \$700 for services like personal statement editing and mock interviews. Its prices are lower than those of its competitors such as Kaplan, whose services start at \$2099, and Princeton Review, which charges \$1749.

Siddiqi, Class of 2016 and incoming student at Harvard Medical School, explained why he started WCS.

"When I was applying, the only people that were willing to provide that service were charg-

ing really inaccessible amounts," Siddiqi said. "Once I got into medical school, I partnered up with Melaku and Lamin, who had a very similar experience."

Arega, a current senior who will be attending Harvard Medical School, said that while he appreciated the services provided by the Office of Pre-Professional Advising, he felt undersupported.

He explained that the office was too busy to offer individual attention to premed students and that he often had to seek advice from his peers.

"That summer you need them the most for the primary and second-

ary applications, you can't really access them well," he said. "You end up being on your own a lot."

Sonko, Class of 2016 and an incoming student at the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania, felt he lacked guidance when applying to medical school. He emphasized the importance of being organized throughout the demanding application process.

"My general experience, if I could put it into one word, would be 'chaotic,'" Sonko said. "Upon working with some of the premeds we are working with now, I would say that's the general feel they

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Will Anderson and Amanda Auble reminisce on their time working as EICs for the *The News-Letter*.  
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### Racism in professional baseball

Andrew Johnson urges readers to address persistent racism in Major League Baseball.  
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## NEWS &amp; FEATURES

# Author shares stories on museum robbery



COURTESY OF JEANNE LEE

Gary Vikan spoke about his career working as a museum curator.

By JEANNE LEE  
Layout Editor

Retired Walters Art Museum Director, Gary Vikan, spoke about his book, *Sacred and Stolen: Confessions of a Museum Director*, at the Charles Village Barnes and Noble on Thursday, April 27.

The book, which was published last year, follows Vikan's career as a curator, solving mysteries behind prominent museum thefts.

"A lot of theft takes place inside museums by people who are inside museums," Vikan said. "Much of the book transpires my entry to the world of art smuggling, not on purpose, but almost by accident."

Vikan shared a story of a theft that occurred at the Baltimore Museum of Art (BMA) in 2012, involving a woman known as the "Renoir Girl."

"Renoir Girl" was the nickname given to Martha Fuqua, a middle-aged driving instructor from Northern Virginia. She bought Pierre-Auguste Renoir's painting *On the Shore of the Seine* for \$7 at a flea market in 2009.

"It was a fairytale," Vikan said. "Everybody hopes and believes that if they just poke around in flea markets long enough, they'll hit the jackpot."

In 2012, Fuqua brought the painting to an auction. The auction company noted that the painting was worth \$70,000 to \$100,000.

"So as this hits the newspapers in December of 2012, we collectively scratch our chins and say, 'Where the hell did this thing come from?'" Vikan said. "Renoir paintings don't come out of thin air, do they?"

After some investigating, the auction company found that attached to the Renoir painting was paperwork leading to the BMA. When the incident began hitting headlines, a reporter from *The Washington Post* investigated files stored in the BMA's library.

"He got one of those file folders, opened it up and came up to an orange colored card," he said. "And it said 'unknown to the BMA Saidie May Renoir, *On the Shore of the Seine*, sketch on linen, 1937.'"

Vikan surmised that before arriving at the flea market, the Renoir painting had been bought by Herbert May, a lawyer from Philadelphia. May's wife, Saidie, had made numerous donations to the BMA.

The BMA subsequently found another file indicating that the painting had been stolen in 1951. They immediately alerted the FBI.

"The FBI swooped into the auction house, seized the painting and said, 'somebody's gotta find out who this belongs to,'" Vikan said. "At that point

the 'Renoir Girl' took the case to court."

In order to bring the case to court, Fuqua had to reveal her identity. The auction was canceled and she continued to make the front page in publications such as *The Washington Post* and *The Baltimore Sun*.

"I opened *The Baltimore Sun*, and I saw the date, 'November 14/15, 1951 stolen,'" Vikan said. "The minute I saw that date, I knew who stole the painting."

Vikan recalled that in 1996, while he was still the director of the Walters Art Museum, he had received a mysterious package in the mail. Inside the package was an Egyptian plaque that had been stolen from the Walters Art Museum in 1951, the same year that the Renoir painting was stolen.

The following day, Vikan received a call from the Johns Hopkins Archaeological Museum and learned that it had also received a package containing pieces stolen from the Walters Art Museum in 1951.

Vikan learned that stolen items had also been returned to the BMA. The successor of a former employee had cleaned up the office and left the stolen item in a garage by accident. Vikan realized that this former employee was the same person who had returned the stolen items to Walters and the Johns Hopkins Archaeological Museum.

Vikan explained that he went to the Federal District Court of Northern Virginia for the hearing in 2014. However, Fuqua did not show up. The judge concluded that as the painting was stolen, Fuqua could not take ownership of the painting.

Vikan remembered reporters interviewing Fuqua's brother, Matt, and asking whether his sister was a possible suspect.

"Matt says, 'No, she wouldn't do that,'" Vikan said. "'But she had a lot of boyfriends, and her main boyfriend worked in the BMA.'"

Vikan later checked the names under the BMA's Board of Trustees and learned that the painting was stolen by an assistant superintendent of the building, meaning that he had access to the BMA, Walters Museum and the Johns Hopkins Archaeological Museum. Vikan said that the man had died in 1987 at the age of 71.

"The painting was done by Renoir for his girlfriend," he said. "My guess is that this guy stole the painting to give to his girlfriend, probably for Christmas. It stayed in the wall, in her house, from the early 1950s to 2012."

The painting *On the Shore of the Seine* by Renoir was returned safely to the BMA and was held at an exhibit in 2014, where it remains today.

# Marx scholar explores modern capitalism

By MORGAN OME  
News & Features Editor  
& WILL ANDERSON  
Editor-in-Chief

David Harvey, distinguished professor of anthropology and geography at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York (CUNY), spoke to a crowd of around 200 in Hodson Hall about his work bringing critiques of capitalism back into public discourse.

The Arrighi Center for Global Studies hosted the event on Thursday, April 27.

Before moving to CUNY, Harvey was a professor of geography at Hopkins. He has published numerous books and articles, many of which focus on capitalism and Karl Marx's *Capital: Critique of Political Economy*.

"I've had a project over the last 15 years or so, since I've moved to CUNY, which is about making Marx more accessible to the public," Harvey said. "[What] continues to be a challenge is to simplify without being simplistic."

Harvey explained that he has worked to achieve this goal by developing a visual representation of Marx's ideas. He used his background in geography and graphics to create a comprehensive diagram.

"The inspiration for this particular static version comes from the water cycle," he said.

According to Harvey, capital, like water, moves through various stages. Capital is accumulated wealth in the form of money or other assets, like land, labor and industrial goods.

For Harvey, capital is value in motion. As soon as it stops moving, it is immediately worthless. Therefore, if a good has no market through which it can be exchanged, it becomes worthless.

"Marx has thought out a fairly consistent definition of capital, which is value in motion," he said. "Capital, in order to maintain its value, has to keep in motion. It must keep the cycle going."

According to Marx, profit is only possible in a capitalist system through the exploitation of workers' labor power. For example, a capitalist sells a washing machine for \$300, though the process costs \$250, with the parts costing \$200 and the labor \$50. Marx argues that the reason why the capitalist makes a \$50 profit is by undervaluing the labor of his or her workers.

For Harvey, the history of capital is the history of wants, needs and desires.

As wants, needs and desires of consumers change, demands for products change too. Capitalism has fundamentally changed social relations by creating an economic system where most individuals have no choice but to sell their labor power for a wage that is significantly lower than the capitalists' profits.

Harvey identified the long-term trend of declining profitability in the production of material goods in the West. As profits have declined, Harvey said, workers' wages have been sup-

pressed. Because workers have less money to spend on their wants, needs and desires, profitability has declined further because there is less demand for capitalist products.

According to Harvey, the state makes up for lowered demand by injecting money into the economy, for example through military expansion or building suburbs. The massive spike in military spending and demand for industrial products during the Second World War accelerated the American economy's recovery after the Great Depression.

"There was a stake in manipulating environmental transformations and wants, needs and desires to make a market and to make absolutely sure there were places for capitalists to make a profit because the demand was there and was strong and was coming from the state," he said.

States helped capitalists by constructing new wants, needs and desires, like home and car

**"Capitalism is doing very badly, but the capitalists are doing extremely well."**

— DAVID HARVEY,  
PROFESSOR OF  
ANTHROPOLOGY

For a more contemporary example, Harvey cited the housing bubble that sparked the 2008 financial crisis.

After the bubble popped, the housing market exploded, stopping capital from circulating.

Because capital must remain in motion to retain its value, some institution needed to recreate a market after the Great Recession.

Harvey went on to say that the 2009 stimulus package that the Obama administration released to stimulate demand in a floundering economy allowed capital to flow again, restoring markets and profitability.

But he added that the American state had to take on billions of dollars in debt to spur demand again and recreate the supposedly "free" market.

He elaborated on Marx's idea that a free market without restraints will lead to the rich becoming richer

and the poor becoming poorer.

He said that such a system is focused on the accumulation rather than the flow of capital. Accumulation can often disrupt the capital cycle and cause the system to deteriorate and spiral out of control, creating financial crises like the Great Recession in 2008.

"The difference between a circle and a spiral is that a circle is knowable and containable and calculable, but a spiral is not," he said. "There is a very good reason why we have that English expression of things 'spiraling out of control.'"

Harvey said that while global money supply is increasing, the only way that capitalist countries are able to access more money is through debt financing, where they borrow money from banks and other nations to pay off their previously accumulated debts and new expenditures. He cautioned that debt financing is not

sustainable and may lead to serious problems down the line.

Harvey argued that late capitalism is flooding the world with debt, emphasized by the fact that the world's total debt is in excess

by 225 percent of gross domestic product (GDP).

Because capitalism relies on the creation of new debt to make sure that capital continues to move around, the total debt cannot be significantly reduced without severely endangering the global capitalist economy.

In the question and answer segment, Associate Professor of Sociology Joel Andreas asked Harvey whether debt accumulation would lead to class struggle in the future.

Young people, individual households and entire nations struggle to borrow more money to pay off their ever increasing debts.

Andreas explained that heavy student loans and increasing property prices mean that many Americans will never escape debt in their lifetimes.

Harvey agreed with Andreas' proposition but stressed that the sites of production, like factories,

and sites of distribution, like ports or highways where capital is shifted, will remain important zones of conflict for future struggles.

Another audience member asked Harvey to elaborate on whether value, the economic measure of a good or service, can change.

In response, Harvey stated that value is dynamic. He said that nations often try to impose their own value systems upon other countries, citing structural adjustment policies of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank that he said have undermined economies in the developing.

But Harvey emphasized that the policies that governments in the West implement, like restrictions on spending and lower taxes on corporations to supposedly spur economic growth, do not benefit the majority of a nation's citizens. Instead, the wealthy, especially capitalists, profit from such policies.

For example, Harvey said that German corporations benefited from the creation of the Euro, the common currency that unites 19 European nations, while the German government did not.

He also stated that the upper class profited from the North Atlantic Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and would have benefited from the recently cancelled Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), two treaties designed to remove trade barriers between the United States and other countries.

In contrast, the working class and even the United States itself did not benefit from NAFTA and would have suffered from the TPP. Harvey believes that such examples represent the conflict within capitalism today.

"Capitalism is doing very badly, but the capitalists are doing extremely well," he said.

Meghaa Ballakrishnan, a graduate student in the art history department, was familiar with Harvey's work prior to attending the lecture.

She is currently sitting in on a class in the political science department that focuses on Marx's value theory and appreciated Harvey's approach to teaching Marx's ideas.

"I think it's really important to make Marx legible and I think [Harvey's] done it better than anyone else," she said. "One of the ways he does it is by being true to Marx while also being very clear and direct."



SAMANTHA SETO/PHOTOGRAPHY STAFF

David Harvey, who formerly taught at Hopkins, discussed how he makes Marx's ideas more accessible.



## NEWS &amp; FEATURES

# Mrs. Gladys reflects on 46 years at Hopkins

By JACOB TOOK  
News & Features Editor

Gladys Burrell, a cashier in the Fresh Food Café (FFC), will retire at the end of this semester after working at Hopkins for 46 years.

Known among students as “Mrs. Gladys,” Burrell’s announced retirement saddened many who have developed personal relationships with her.

Burrell said that the decision to retire was difficult for her because she grows attached to each new class of students.

“I always say I won’t get too close because when they graduate I’ll miss them, but I lie every time,” she said. “Some of the students say, ‘Why can’t you just stay here until I graduate?’ Well, if I stay here

is close with the people who stop and talk to her when they see her in the FFC and mentioned that she got a birthday gift for one of his friends.

He agreed that her attitude at work reflects her enthusiasm for the job.

“She’s really invested in your success and she always brightens your day,” Villavisanis said. “It speaks volumes to her commitment and her investment in the students and just that she enjoys making a person’s day.”

He added that the effort Burrell has taken to cultivate her relationships with students made her

**“Within yourself, you’ve got to get a little more time just to slow down.”**

**— GLADYS BURRELL, FFC CASHIER**

getting to know you even though there’s thousands of kids that come through the FFC.”

Freshman Sumera Yego said that Burrell made her feel welcome on campus, particularly in the beginning of the year.

“Being away from home can be challenging because there aren’t a lot of people that you feel genuinely care about you,” she said. “From day one she showed that she cared about not just me but nearly every student that I’ve seen interact with her.”

Yego said that Burrell would notice when she was upset or tired and talk with her to cheer her up. She said she wishes she’d had a chance to get to know her better but was glad to have known her this year.

“She’s very loving, she’s very affectionate, she asks about your day and it seems very meaningful,” Yego said. “I’m going to miss the warmth. There are plenty of other staff members who I know who show genuine affection, but she is definitely an outstanding person and just makes the FFC seem a little bit more

By KAREN WANG  
Staff Writer

The Human Library (HL), an event where people chosen as “books” talk to visitors about personal experiences with discrimination, took place in the Brody Learning Commons on Sunday.

The event, which was introduced to Hopkins last year by current senior Selma Ahmed, showcased 13 “books.” The first Human Library was founded in Denmark 15 years ago in the hopes of breaking down stereotypes through face-to-face interactions.

In an email to *The News-Letter*, Ahmed said that she and other organizers continued their efforts from last year to represent a variety of stigmatized groups.

“Since last year’s HL was so successful, we didn’t change too much,” she wrote. “Our books were AMAZING this year and represented so many facets of society that are stigmatized, so the experience was really rewarding to say the least.”

Book titles included “Black Jew,” “Transgender, Saudi Arabian, Agnostic,” “Transgender Teacher,” “Feminist-Atheist” and “Secretly Sick.” Ahmed also noted the differences in the process of obtaining books from last year.

“Instead of reaching out to local organizations and hustling for books, we received input from Howard County’s Public Library that they had about 10 books that would like to participate in our Human Library,” she said. “These books had already been prepped and primed from their experience in Howard County’s event, so they already understood what to expect with ours.”

Ed Mahoney, who

struggled with and overcame obesity, said that his strained relationship with his father catalyzed his dependence on food.

“I was raised by a single mom and I was the oldest of four kids,

and my dad was not a good guy,” Mahoney said. “He had demons he never dealt with, and unfortunately I got the brunt of it. Food was my comfort, it was part of who I was, and then it just got to a point where I just didn’t care.”

He further shared the insecurities he harbored while he was overweight.

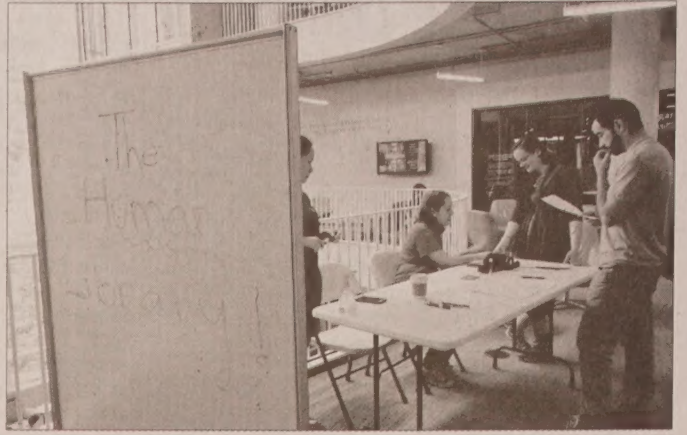
“I wasn’t happy, but I wore a really good game face,” Mahoney said. “A lot of overweight people tend to be the life of the party or the big party animal. That’s because they don’t want you to get inside their head, they want you to think they’re doing great.”

Mahoney added that overweight people often use self-deprecation as a defense mechanism.

“We’ll try to make the joke that you’ll make about us before you can,” he said. “I made fun of myself more than I made fun of anyone. It was like a shield.”

Mahoney named his aunt, who is morbidly obese and faces many health problems, as the motivation for his three year weight loss journey.

“She let herself be that stereotypical fat person; she lived alone for 30 years and she lived through us,” he said. “She was the impe-



SAMANTHA SETO/PHOTOGRAPHY STAFF  
Students signed up to check out human “books” so they could learn more about them.

tus because I didn’t want to go out like that.”

When Mahoney first started losing weight, he almost lost his life.

“I was basically anorexic because I just stopped eating,” he said. “I [contracted] cellulitis, and [my muscle] actually got infected.”

Although Mahoney briefly considered getting surgery to aid in the weight loss, his doctor recommended that he lose weight more gradually through moderate forms of exercise, such as taking the stairs to his office at work and doing isometric yoga at his desk.

Mahoney was not confident in going to the gym because he felt that he drew too much attention to himself.

“When you go to a gym and you’re big, everyone wants to help, which is great, but it’s also drawing attention to me the entire time I’m there,” he said. “You’re insecure, because you’ve been made fun of your entire life.”

Mahoney said his entire outlook on life changed when he began to lose weight. He realized the extent to which he had been discriminated against.

“I never realized that people were treating me based on how big I was,” he said. “I’m still the same person on the inside, the only thing that changed was how big I was.”

Losing weight has made Mahoney more self-confident and open towards others, and he began standing up for himself.

“People just assumed I was a pushover, a people pleaser,” he said. “So when I got more self-confidence, people [won-

dered] why I stood up for myself.”

Storm Hogan, another “book,” shared her experiences with postural orthostatic tachycardia syndrome (POTS), a disease that lowers her blood volume when standing up and leaves her constantly fatigued.

Hogan had to drop out of high school when she was 16 because the school’s administration was unwilling to give her an Individualized Education Program (IEP), which would have provided the accommodations she needed to complete her high school education.

Because of her illness, Hogan suffered from depression. Though she eventually learned to cope with and accept her illness, she said this was initially a challenge.

“When you’re in the situation, you don’t get to analyze it, you just have to survive,” she said.

When interacting with people with invisible illnesses or disabilities, Hogan believes that the most important thing is to listen.

“Listening doesn’t just mean being quiet when somebody’s talking,” she said. “Listening means not deciding for them, not assuming that everyone you meet has the same privilege that you do.”

Ahmed felt that the Human Library played a therapeutic role for its books.

“Not only does the Human Library provide an outlet for the attendees to meet their biases, but it also provides a platform for our books to profess many of their grievances with being ‘misunderstood,’” she said.



SAMANTHA SETO/PHOTOGRAPHY STAFF  
A human “book” shares her personal experiences with a student.

# SGA debates pros and cons of Smoking Ban Resolution

By KAREN SHENG  
Staff Writer

The Student Government Association (SGA) held its last weekly meeting of the year on Tuesday to approve nominees for the Student Activities Commission, debate the Smoking Ban Resolution and approve the Ethics Board nominees.

Freshman Class Senator Rushabh Doshi presented the Smoking Ban Resolution, which he worked on with Junior Class Senator Sathvik Namburur. Doshi presented the Resolution in the last two SGA meetings, but it failed to pass both times.

The Resolution aims to make Hopkins a smoke-free campus by August 2018. It also outlines the creation of a smoking helpline, regular smoking cessation counseling programs and the provision

of nicotine alternatives. All smoking cessation aids would be provided to students, faculty, workers and their dependents.

Freshman Class President Anthony Boutros hailed the Resolution as important to student health and safety, especially since the Resolution still provided alternative choices for smokers, including one designated smoking area on campus.

“The right to live is the most central of rights,” he said. “Standing up for the overwhelming majority of students, staff, faculty who don’t smoke and saying that you have the right to walk around campus and not have your health at risk everywhere you go.”

Junior Class Senator Kwame Alston had multiple concerns about the Resolution, including how the SGA would fund

the promised measures.

“This is a very expensive program, so where is that money coming from?” he said.

Alston also voiced concerns about the statistical sampling that was used to support the Resolution, which was one of the issues mentioned when it failed to pass in the previous meeting.

“You need better stats than this. You cannot say that the data from 2013 is representative of [the] students on this campus or that you represent your students,” he said. “Just you talking to some people in your class isn’t an accepted sample at all.”

Similarly, Sophomore Class Senator Jen Baron mentioned that after she talked to an international student who opposed the smoking ban, she felt that the ban was unfair, espe-

cially since current smokers and nonsmokers have not come to SGA meetings to voice their opinions.

“For a lot of students, it’s part of their culture, where they grow up or where they live. Smoking is just a social thing that people do,” she said. “I feel like we’re targeting a lot of students. As SGA we’re supposed to represent our people and right now I feel like we’re not by forcing this thing through.”

Sophomore Class Senator Akshay Bhamidipati countered Baron’s opinion by citing the legality of marijuana in different jurisdictions in the United States.

“I understand that it is a cultural thing to smoke in certain countries, but it’s a conflict,” he said. “Suppose weed is legal in Washington. Is it a cultural thing to not smoke

weed in Maryland? It doesn’t matter.”

Although Doshi had hoped that SGA would be able to pass the Resolution quickly in order to give more time for the administration to be able to implement a smoking ban, the bill failed to pass by a vote of 16 to 9 and will be pushed to next semester’s SGA.

Doshi said that he had been working on the Resolution for the past four months, but Alston disagreed about whether that meant that it should pass.

“Just because you worked on the bill for four months and you presented it for three weeks doesn’t mean that it’s not rushed,” he said.

Discussion on the Smoking Ban Resolution will continue during the SGA retreat in the fall 2017 semester.

“We’re trying to help each other because we all need each other,” she said. “Whether we want to or not, we do. At the end of the day, we’re going to need somebody.”

Freshman Kopal Bansal said that she normally sees Burrell in the mornings and asks her about how her day has been going.

“It’s nice to have that in the morning,” she said. “Just seeing her face and her smile just makes my morning better. She’s so sweet and it’s going to be sad to see her retire.”

Bansal said that she was impressed by Burrell’s ongoing commitment to her job after so many years.

“It’s just really awesome that she still has so much enthusiasm,” Bansal said. “She remembers people and remembers who you are.”

Dillan Villavisanis, a junior, said that his relationship with Burrell has developed since his freshman year. He said that she



## NEWS &amp; FEATURES

# Alumni start pre-med consulting company

WHITE COAT, FROM A1  
get as well."

According to Sonko, working with current undergraduates enables them to relate to each applicant individually and better understand the small intricacies and details of their application.

It is this personal service, he said, that sets WCS apart from other companies that assist with the application process.

"A lot of the bigger companies, like Kaplan and Princeton Review, as well as admissions counselors tend to be older and tend to be pretty distant from the actual medical school process itself," he said. "White Coat Specialists differentiates itself because all of our counselors are fresh out of the process."

In an email to *The News-Letter*, Siddiqi explained that the founders intend on keeping the company running while they are in medical school and after they graduate.

"The entire WCS team is very committed to this company, so we're willing to make as much time as needed during medical school," Siddiqi wrote.

He added that WCS is considering expanding its reach by hiring more consultants.

"We're currently focusing on marketing to other universities and bringing in more consultants from outside [Hopkins] to meet the demand."

Kelli Johnson, director of the Pre-Professional Office, said in an email to *The News-Letter* that students should weigh the pros and cons of using medical school admission consulting companies.

"Although Pre-Professional Programs and Advising neither promotes nor discourages the use of private consultants, students who retain these services should be aware that the costs and quality can vary greatly," she wrote.

Johnson also emphasized that advisors in the Pre-Professional Office have established connections with admissions deans at medical schools across the country and have exclusive access to resources through the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) and American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOMA).

Mereze Visagie, a junior preparing to take the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT), feels that she is well supported by the University's services.

"As a premed student at Johns Hopkins, I feel extremely prepared to apply to medical school. I will be applying in cycles, following graduation," she wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*. "I do not plan on using an outside service because I think the resources Hopkins has are sufficient."

Specifically, Visagie noted that the Hopkins advisors take the time to provide individual help to students going through the application process.

"They create a mock

[American Medical College Application Service] application for us to complete before filling out the real one," she wrote. "It also helps them to know personal details about us for our committee letters. Also, the Writing Center is helpful for editing our personal statements."

Charisma Burrows, a freshman and premed, also said that she was satisfied by the Office of Pre-Professional Advising.

"I feel like Hopkins has a lot of resources," she said. "When you do your letter of recommendation, they make you fill out this big long list of everything you have done so that they are able to encompass who you are as a person and all your achievements."

While freshman Kisha Patel, a premed student, believes that Hopkins offers adequate resources for applying to medical school. However, Patel also sees the benefit of talking to students who have had experience going through the application process.

"Understanding their stories will help me more directly because they have been in my footsteps just a few years ago," she said.

By ALYSSA WOODEN  
News & Features Editor

Experts gathered to discuss child sexual abuse prevention at the Bloomberg School of Public Health's fifth annual Child Sexual Abuse Symposium. The Moore Center for the Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse hosted the symposium on Thursday, April 27.

The symposium included several lectures, a panel discussion and a documentary screening. It aimed to inform the general public, practitioners and policymakers on the latest research in the field of child sexual abuse prevention.

Director of the Moore Center Elizabeth Letourneau delivered the first lecture of the symposium as well as the closing remarks. She stressed the importance of focusing on effective prevention programs and abandoning inadequate policies.

"I hope [people] will take away that bad policy doesn't only cost money, it hurts people, and it takes the focus away from developing effective intervention programming," she said.

Speakers from various areas of expertise discussed topics like youth intimate partner violence, the use of trauma-informed practices in violence prevention and the impact of sex offender registries.

One of the morning lecturers, University of Chicago Senior Fellow Bruce Taylor, explained a program he created called Shifting Boundaries. It is a dating violence prevention program targeted at middle school students. Taylor cited studies showing that 68 percent of teens have experienced dating violence and that 62 percent have reported perpetrating it.

# Spring Fair perseveres despite challenges

SPRING FAIR, FROM A1

Both Dens and Deshpande expressed concerns that the buses returning to campus were not well organized. As a result, many students took alternative transportation home.

"Getting us all back was a little bit trickier because the buses dropped us off in two different locations," Deshpande said. "It was kind of confusing figuring out where to hop on to get back, and a lot of people just ended up uber'ing back anyway. Other than that, I think they did a pretty fine job."

Freshman Kopal Bansal also described people shoving each other at the concert, though she felt such behavior was to be expected given the large crowds.

"The concert was a lot of fun," she said. "I was in the mosh pit area,

so I was being shoved around, and one of my friends ended up on the floor."

Along with moving the concert off campus, Spring Fair also had to reconfigure some of the events because of construction and other ongoing University maintenance projects.

"We had a lot of trouble getting some of the areas for Spring Fair," Bowman said. "Last summer [the University] did a lot of work on the freshman quad, fixing the grass and fixing all the bricks, so they were really unwilling to have food on freshman quad... That's why the food trucks were on the Beach this year, because they didn't want them driving on campus."

In addition, the arts and crafts vendors that are normally housed on Gilman Quad had to be



KUNAL MAITI/PHOTOGRAPHY STAFF  
Students relaxed on the Beach throughout Spring Fair weekend.



COURTESY OF ROLLIN HU  
Spring Fair kicked out with fireworks on the Beach last Thursday night.

relocated. Bowman said that Spring Fair already had an established system for organizing vendors on Gilman, but because of construction, the staff had to reorganize the vendors and create new plots.

"We moved [the vendors] between Mudd, Dunning and Remsen," she said. "So we had to go out and measure from scratch this year, which was a lot, but it worked out."

While there were some complications this year for attendees and staff, students thought the fair went well.

"It's really big and super fun, and it's nice to see tons of people come and enjoy Spring Fair," Bowman said.

Dens said that he appreciated being able to enjoy the nice weather during Spring Fair weekend.

"It was kind of the first stretch of good weather we had," he said. "Everyone was just in a much more relaxed mood."

Grace Troy, a freshman, liked the atmosphere of Spring Fair.

"Spring fair was a very fun time to be on campus," she wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*. "Everyone was outside enjoying the weather and all the Spring Fair activities."

Other students, like Treva Obbard, felt that it was not as convenient having Spring Fair right before the last week of classes.

"Honestly, I didn't have much time for it," Obbard said. "I get that it's supposed to be a kind of last hurrah before finals, but I always already have so many final projects due, I'm just swamped."

# Lecturers critique child sexual abuse prevention policies

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He discussed successes and possible areas of improvement for his program, which introduces dating violence and sexual harassment curricula to schools.

"We've developed a number of really good... primary prevention interventions that have been shown to be effective," Taylor said. "But in terms of schools actually implementing it, that is very low... We probably still need to continue thinking about modifications to the existing programs or other new programs that could be developed."

Taylor is currently focusing on raising awareness about the program and demonstrating its effectiveness to schools so that it can be more widely implemented. He also stressed the importance of early intervention.

"I had done work in the area of looking at social service interventions and their effects on victims... and it suggested that these reactive approaches to working with adults who were already offenders was not effective," he said. "We needed to start thinking about the theme of primary intervention."

According to Taylor, an additional barrier to effective sexual violence prevention in schools is the emphasis placed on test scores and academic achievement.

"Standardized testing... is how the schools are evaluated in a lot of ways," he said. "So it's kind of hard to then ask them to take on another criterion [with] which to be measured, which is the level of violence in schools."

Barry University Professor of Social Work Jill Levenson gave a lecture on the issues facing adult victims of childhood trauma. Like Taylor, she also

stressed the need to invest more resources into early intervention.

"We must commit to ensuring that every child can have access to opportunities and nurturing adults that provide correct experience and counteract the negative impacts of poverty, community violence, discrimination, child maltreatment and household dysfunction," she wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*.

Levenson believes that current prevention practices are problematic because they focus too much on reacting to abuse rather than preventing it.

"We spend lots of resources on incarceration, sex offender registries and foster care placements after abuse takes place rather than investing more on reducing social problems and reshaping cultural messaging," she wrote.

According to Levenson, one social problem is the failure to provide proper care to victims of abuse, who often become perpetrators themselves. She cited research which found that criminal offenders have much higher rates of adverse childhood experiences than the general population.

"People convicted of sex crimes inspire little sympathy, but the reality is that most of them were victims of various child maltreatments," she wrote.

"There is never an excuse for assaultive behavior, of course, but it is important for us to understand how interpersonal violence develops, so that we can

inform our intervention strategies accordingly."

Levenson advocates for trauma-informed care (TIC), which integrates knowledge about the neuropsychological effects of childhood trauma into therapy and prevention policies.

In addition to listening to lectures, symposium attendees also watched a screening of the documentary *Untouchable*, directed by lawyer and author David Feige. The film focused on the personal stories of victims, offenders and advocates for sexual abuse prevention. It discussed

problems with current policies on sex offender registration.

Fred Berlin, a professor of psychiatry at the Hopkins School of Medicine and the moderator of the discussion panel, said

he enjoyed the variety of perspectives present in the film.

"The documentary gave folks a chance to actually see persons who are on the registry... to get a sense of how folks were affected by all of this," Berlin said. "It was both informative and it also allowed people the opportunity to see actual human beings who are affected by these issues."

Director of the Child Abuse Research Education and Service Institute Esther Deblinger was impressed with the quality of the documentary.

"[It was] very powerful," she said. "It's a reminder of how good filmmaking can have a tremendous impact."

Levenson enjoyed the variety of topics presented at the symposium and believes that it will be effective in furthering child sexual abuse prevention.

"I thought the symposium was terrific, focusing on a range of issues that help us understand sexual abuse and prevent harm across the spectrum of people affected by it," she wrote.

Berlin brought up some of the challenges raised during the symposium such as the excessive punishment of registered sex offenders.

"We all have very strong feelings when it comes to wanting to protect children," he said. "If there's some sense they're in jeopardy or being harmed, we tend to demonize many of the people on the registry. We have to try to bring out their humanity, and it's not always an easy thing to do in the face of all the emotion that this topic generates."

Taylor appreciated the opportunity to learn about topics outside his area of expertise but suggested that the symposium could be made even longer in the future.

"There's a lot more to talk about, so it seems like maybe down the road [they] could consider having like a day and a half symposium," he said.

Berlin agreed, noting that while the symposium was a good first step, more action must be taken to effect change regarding the policy and prevention of child sexual abuse.

"I think there's always much more to be addressed," he said. "It's going to take time, but it's a very worthy goal of trying to protect children and have a more enlightened approach to the whole issue."



## NEWS &amp; FEATURES

# University-sponsored plan focuses on improving local neighborhoods



COURTESY OF ROLLIN HU

HCPI outlines goals to serve local neighborhoods, like adding 3,000 households to central Baltimore.

## HCPI, FROM A1

Baltimore within the next 10 years and increase collaboration between stakeholders in the neighborhoods.

The report estimates that it would cost \$60 million to meet the goals of HCPI. Hopkins has committed \$10 million to be used over five years and has spent \$7,668,603 to date.

The largest amount of money, \$3,274,480, has gone towards funding construction projects in two local public schools: the Margaret Brent Elementary and Middle School and the Barclay Elementary School.

Sharicca Boldon, the community school coordinator for Strong City Baltimore, a nonprofit focused on improving Baltimore neighborhoods, facilitates communication between the Barclay and Margaret Brent Schools and community partners.

She believes that the University's work benefits itself in addition to the schools and that improving local schools can help the University attract potential faculty and staff.

"Having a desirable place to live is related to having a strong school option available for those who have school-aged children," Boldon said. "So I think in the long run, this investment helps [Hopkins] create a competitive advantage."

## The case for action

While the HCPI includes goals to improve the community, it also addresses how meeting these goals aligns with the University's interests. In particular, the report highlights how improving local communities can help fight the perception that Baltimore is an unsafe or impoverished city.

The report states that the neighborhoods through which people travel to campus can affirm Baltimore's reputation as a city with "blight, crime and disinvestment" to prospective students and their parents.

"Strengthening the communities immediately surrounding the Homewood campus will have a powerful, counterinfluence on the negative imagery of Baltimore, leading to a positive impact on student recruitment and retention," the report states.

Andy Frank, special adviser to University President Ronald J. Daniels, has a seat on the CBP steering committee. His work centers on implementing the HCPI and the East Baltimore Development Initiative (EBDI),

a program focused on improving the areas around the East Baltimore Campus. Specifically, Frank coordinates University funds and connects the University's needs to those of the community.

"Our responsibility is to wake up in the morning and think about how to work with and improve the neighborhoods [covered by the plan], but at the same time, advance the interest of the University," he said.

McNeely described the University's rationale for expanding its involvement in the community.

"We're not pretending that nobody has self-interest," he said. "When we came up with the HCPI, Ron [Daniels] welcomed everybody to the first meeting and said, 'We're not doing this as Hopkins just because we're good guys. We've got some real issues... We accept students that don't come here, and when we interview why they didn't come, they say the surrounding neighborhoods turned them or their parents off. That's a problem.'"

According to McNeely, the University's openness about its interests gives community members a transparent view of how Hopkins will impact their neighborhoods.

"People were relieved, thinking, 'okay, we know what Hopkins wants,'" he said.

McNeely also acknowledged that the different interests of CBP's various members occasionally come into conflict.

"Another issue that we've had to balance here is making sure that there's parity at the table," he said. "You've got a university president sitting across the table from an elected president of a neighborhood association... How do you get the voices to be equal?"

Improving local neighborhoods can serve the interests of the University and community partners, as well as current Hopkins students. Senior Tommy Koh, who interns under Frank, argued that students play an important role in HCPI.

"It's not about how students are involved as much as it should be about how students are engaged. Students are engaged with HCPI in many ways without even knowing it," he wrote. "As they volunteer, eat and attend events with the communities around

campus in the HCPI target area, they are participating within and contributing to building the capacity of these neighborhoods."

## Accounting for the voice of the community

Currently, the CBP serves as an organizational body that oversees, coordinates and facilitates the work done by community partners.

"Central Baltimore Partnership itself doesn't really run programs or do development; The partners do and the partnership is a facilitator," McNeely said. "I used to say that the Central Baltimore Partnership was this big parade, and everybody got to march behind their own banner, and the job of the partnership was to plan the route."

The partnership has also connected smaller organizations to investors and more influential partners, allowing them to better serve Baltimore.

For example, Jubilee, a non-profit real estate development corporation, was able to head the redevelopment of two affordable apartment complexes by working with CBP. The apartment complexes, named City Arts and City Arts Two, were made specifically for artists. Charles Duff, the president of Jubilee, spoke positively about collaborating with CBP.

"They say what's going on right around the Homewood campus in central Baltimore is unique, remarkable and a model for institutions all over the country," Duff said.

Jubilee also worked on redeveloping The Centre Theatre on North Avenue. The building, which stood vacant for 25 years, now houses the JHU-MICA Film Centre, among other organizations. Duff explained that partnering with Hopkins was key to the project's success.

"Little old Jubilee had leased 40 percent of its vacant building to the best paying tenants in the Baltimore office market," Duff said. "[Hopkins and MICA] made it possible for us to finance the renovation of a \$19 million building. Nobody ever would have invested or lent \$19 million just to us because we're cute. They wanted to make sure we'd be able to pay it back. And Hopkins and MICA made that look real."

In addition to creating partnerships between organizations and investors, CBP also awards grants.

Silvia Blitzer Golombek, who earned her Ph.D. in sociology from Hopkins, is a member of the CBP grant approval committee. Her work centers around reviewing applications for spruce-up grants, which aim to improve physical aspects of the community. Some of their projects have included funding public art and planting trees.

"[The grants are] filling a gap. There are a few organizations which may give out small garden beautification grants," she said. "[CBP] also gives out pretty sizeable grants, maybe above \$10,000 to \$20,000. And that's very significant. So the communities can really do something meaningful and sustainable."

So far, Hopkins has committed \$300,000 dollars to these grants. Salem Reiner, the director of community affairs at Hopkins, explained that spruce-up grants go beyond just physically improving the neighborhood.

"Equally important is that [spruce-up grants] build grassroots skills and civic engagement," he said. "By design, to carry out these projects, the community organizations need to work with each other, need to learn how to put together the skill set to advance a project."

## Residents' concerns

Though some residents of the central Baltimore area are optimistic about the development, residents of Remington, a neighborhood located just south of the Hopkins campus, have voiced concerns about displacement stemming from rising housing prices.

Ryan Flanagan, the former president and current board member of the Greater Remington Improvement Association (GRIA), addressed the source of their concerns.

"Remington's proximity to Hopkins and other stable communities such as Hampden and Charles Village coupled with the availability of cheap, dense housing stock and its proximity to the [Interstate] 83 come together with other factors to cause the rise in housing prices we see today," he wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*.

Frank acknowledges those concerns but argues that no current residents have been displaced because of rising housing prices.

"Remington has, I think, legitimate concerns about displacement," he said. "I don't think within the HCPI neighborhoods we have seen levels of displacement, in part because the new housing that's been built is being built on land that was not formerly housing."

Frank also argued that low levels of displacement exist because of the Maryland Homeowners' Property Tax Credit Program. Established by state law, this program allows households to deduct a portion of their property tax based on their income level. It aims to protect lower income homeowners in areas where property values are increasing at a higher rate than income levels.

"It's specifically a state program to keep people in their homes. They benefit from the increased [property] value, but they don't have the burden of more taxes," Frank said.

Duff, who sits on the residential development and marketing committee for CBP, also acknowledged the importance of this tax break.

"If you're a homeowner in Baltimore city or anywhere else, the value of your property can double, can quintuple, can octuple — it can do whatever it wants — but your actual tax bill cannot go up by more than four percent a year," Duff said.

Ellen Janes, the current executive director of CBP, confirmed Frank's assessment on displacement.

"Honestly, we haven't displaced anyone, anywhere," Janes said.

With the exception of Remington, Frank adds, the six neighborhoods with the highest levels of distress, Harwood, Barclay, Greenmount West, Charles North and Old Goucher, are not looking to increase the number of available affordable housing units. Instead, they seek to create a mixed-income neighborhood.

"Those neighborhoods in the process said, 'We want to make the amount of affordable housing that is within the district now better and more permanent, but we don't necessarily want to increase the amount of affordable housing. We like to have a mix and we like that mix reflected in our local schools,'" Frank said.

In contrast, Remington sees a need for more affordable housing.

GRIA is currently working with CBP to create a land trust which would protect low income households from rising house prices. Flanagan emphasized why they needed such a program.

gram.

"Remington has been a multi-class community for generations," he wrote. "However, that traditional diversity, which residents value, is at risk from rising rents and home values, so we are looking to strategies that will prevent displacement of vulnerable residents. Community Land Trusts create permanently affordable community controlled housing by removing homes from the open market, thus preserving their affordability for generations to come."

However, Janes cautioned that there are difficulties in forming a land trust.

"It's a very complex tool, not easy to use and hasn't really been used in Baltimore; though there's a couple of existing land trusts, but they haven't been able to acquire more than one or two properties," Janes said.

While the University is not directly involved with the development of the land trusts, Frank argues that the Remington community has access to resources which Hopkins has helped to establish.

Overall, Frank sees the HCPI as a way for the University to work in concert with the local communities so that both parties can benefit.

"We have the luxury of working with communities that want the same outcomes that we do, which is better schools, safer streets, more vibrant retail and more economic inclusion," Frank said. "You won't find anybody within the HCPI community that doesn't want that."

Duff, a Baltimore native, appreciates the increased connection between Hopkins and the community. He emphasized how important it is that the University accept greater responsibility for the wellbeing of its surrounding neighborhoods.

"I've always been sort of disappointed that Hopkins kept such a low profile in the city, that you could live your whole life in Baltimore without ever going on the Hopkins campus," Duff said. "There are all these fascinating things that happens on the Hopkins campus, but the University has always been sort of a closed community. It's beginning to open up, and that, I think, is a good thing."

*Editor's Note: Tommy Koh is a frequent contributor to the Opinions section of The News-Letter. He was not involved in the process of reporting, writing or editing the article in any way.*



COURTESY OF ROLLIN HU

The University is interested in improving distressed neighborhoods near campus, such as Greenmount West.



## NEWS &amp; FEATURES

## Female students share post-graduation plans



COURTESY OF THE FOLLOWING:

Clockwise from top left: Isis Dwyer, Lauren Altus, Becca Black, Astha Berry, Piper Sheren and Candice Gard.

## SENIORS, FROM A1

a Master of Health Science immunology program at the Bloomberg School of Public Health. She entered Hopkins as a Writing Seminars and neuroscience double major, but transferred into MSH after its creation in 2015.

"It seemed like a really great consolidation of my two interests... in a more streamlined fashion," Berry said.

## Engineers' Experiences

Senior Becca Black is a molecular and cellular biology major who has worked under Professor Sharon Gerecht of the chemical and biomolecular engineering department for three years. Next year, Black will begin a PhD program in biological engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

She believes Hopkins was a good fit for her interests, and as a female student, she has found the engineering faculty to be very supportive. In particular, she cited Gerecht and her research supervisor, a post-doctoral candidate.

"I've just had this strong mentorship from these two incredibly strong women," she said.

Black also cited her high school chemistry teacher, who was a woman, as the reason she decided to go into a STEM field.

Senior Candice Gard, a biomedical engineering (BME) major who will be attending Tufts University School of Medicine next year, said that while she has had significantly more male than female professors, she has felt particularly supported by women leaders in the Whiting School Engineering.

She particularly admires Interim Director of the BME department Eileen Haase.

"She's a go-getter, and she will fight to make sure that everything is equal amongst the students," Gard said.

## Effects of the Election

For Altus, U.S. President Donald Trump's election profoundly affected her career plans and was instrumental in her decision to attend law school.

"My problem before the election was that I liked too much stuff," she said. "I'd been toying with the idea of law school, but I didn't have the passion that I feel like you need for it."

The election proved to

be just the incentive she needed.

"I was freaking out. I was like 'So many people right now need so much help,'" Altus said. "It really just felt like the most tangible thing I could do [was to] go to law school."

Sheren has been planning to go to law school for years. However, she was even more inspired to do so after seeing lawyers working together in airports to combat Trump's travel ban.

"It's made lawyers popular again, which is nice," Sheren said.

The election also reaffirmed her passion for serving her community.

"I've always had a leaning towards public interest law and doing more community-minded work, especially because I'm from New York, and I'll be in New York, so I want to give back to that community," she said. "[The election] has only pushed me to go further."

Gard is concerned about how Trump's election will affect her ability to treat patients, particularly given the possible changes in healthcare legislation.

"I think right now it's a very uncertain time in medicine because who knows what Trump will do next," Gard said. "Right now a lot more people are insured and there's a great benefit to them. And I feel, as a physician, I want to cover more people than... turn people away because of insurance issues."

## Salary Equity

Since she will be in school for another six years, Black is somewhat hopeful that pay discrimination will not be as much of an issue by the time she enters the workforce, but she feels prepared to address it if need be.

"I would really be annoyed if I found out that my co-workers were making more than me," Black said. "I'm ready to fight for that and say, 'I deserve to make as much.'"

Altus believes disparities between men's and women's salaries are complicated.

"There's obviously not an institutionalized pay gap, which makes it harder because there's always the question of how many things have to accumulate before it becomes discrimination," Altus said.

She emphasized the importance of knowing one's value in the workplace.

"We all have to find that line of knowing what we're worth and when we're worth it and when to ask for it because obviously not getting paid what we're worth isn't an option," she said.

Berry said she isn't as concerned about potential pay gaps as she is about gender polarization in certain medical specialties.

"There is a huge shortage in female surgeons, which I think again could be [because of] the fact that it requires so much specialization," Berry said. "I'm extrapolating here but I think it might have something to do with trying to have a family. [It] is just sad that roles that require large amounts of time for specialization or further education are primarily dominated by men."

Dwyer agreed that potential salary inequity is not her primary concern. She is most worried about feeling isolated as a black anthropologist.

"A lot of anthropology was kind of like pseudoscience in the beginning to kind of justify things [like] slavery and discrimination, saying that people who weren't white were basically inferior to white people based on any number of skeletal or cranial or bodily traits," Dwyer said.

She said while anthropology as a whole has improved, she still notices racial disparity in her field.

"I haven't seen any people of color in physical anthropology versus other fields of anthropology... even when I visited the program [at NYU], I didn't see any people who looked like me," she said.

Dwyer also believes her area of focus will also set her apart. She plans to explore racial identification in physical anthropology.

"I'm already black, and now I want to talk about race. So I can definitely see that not necessarily being an obstacle but being a challenge for me to make sure that it's not getting tokenized," she said. "That's probably my biggest concern is making sure people don't assume I'm only talking about this because I can't talk about anything else."

## Work-Life Balance

Altus cited her mother, who is a lawyer, as a role model for how to manage both a career and a family.

"She always says she had three babies... me and my brother and her job. And so a different baby needed her more at different times," Altus said.

Black agreed that balance is possible, but she believes it can be difficult to achieve.

"These opportunities definitely do exist. It's just about finding them," she said. "That's something you have to look out for. It's not something that's guaranteed."

Sheren stressed how happy she is to have a partner who supports her.

"My boyfriend knows I'm going to go to law school and be a professional woman, and he's fine with that and supports it a thousand percent," Sheren said. "It's because we constantly talk about it and are really open, and so I think that's really important."

Berry was surprised by how early she had to start planning for balancing a career and family. She had thought about pursuing MD-PhD degrees when she started at Hopkins but decided against it after realizing how long that process would take.

"[Those years are] in the middle of, for a woman, the time that she would be able to have kids," Berry said. "And thinking about whether or not I wanted to prioritize my future family or my career is a really big decision to have to make at 19."

Berry said she was particularly influenced to make a decision after hearing a female MD-PhD talk about her experiences.

"She said she had three kids. She had one during her PhD, one during her [time in] medical school and one during her residency," Berry said. "That is great for her. She must be some sort of superwoman, but I didn't think that was very feasible and I didn't want to enter an education or a career path with the possibility of dropping out."

After completing her Master's at Bloomberg, Berry plans to attend medical school and potentially specialize in pediatrics.

Gard concurred that work-life balance will be a factor in her decisions going forward. She said she might consider entering a more female-friendly medical specialty.

"I hate to say it probably will be [a consideration] because I don't necessarily want to compete all the time... like in surgery it's definitely a lot more competition than necessarily general [pediatrics]," she said. "I do want to have a family life."

Altus emphasized that women today should not have to choose between having a family and pursuing a career.

"I really hope that every woman at Johns Hopkins can know that there's a way to make [a balance] work, and that we don't have to make sacrifices in one way or another," she said. "I don't want any of us to have to say 'no' to things that we want."

## Hopkins students join climate march

BY ANNA GORDON

For The News-Letter

Tens of thousands of protesters participated in the People's Climate March on Saturday, April 29, in Washington, D.C., to voice their opposition to the Trump administration's environmental policies.

In 90 degree weather, protesters marched from Capitol Hill, passing the White House on their way to the Washington Monument.

They chanted "this is what Democracy looks like" and carried signs with slogans such as "Earth to Trump, you're killing us!" and "dirty air, dirty water, dirty Trump."

Another sign featured pictures of monarch butterflies with the caption, "The only orange monarch we want." Other signs did not directly criticize Trump, reading "no sides in climate," "let solar be our light" and "renewable is doable."

Some demonstrators wore costumes. For example, one woman dressed up as the Statue of Liberty promising clean air to American immigrants, while another person in a full-body T-rex suit bore a sign saying "Global Warming Rex Lives."

Others wore green to demonstrate their environmental advocacy.

When passing the Trump International Hotel, protesters booed and chanted "shame, shame, shame."

President Donald Trump has many people worried about his stance on climate change. In the first hundred days of his term, he has proposed budget cuts to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and has attempted to ease pollution regulations on coal and oil.

Moreover, the EPA removed information and data about climate change from its website on Friday, April 28.

Freshman Nicole Stevens, who attended the march, criticized Trump for appointing Scott Pruitt as the EPA administrator.

"The fact that the leader of the EPA does not believe in climate change and the fact that he was appointed, is problematic because the EPA is definitely the big organization that would be able to enact legislation that could prevent climate change," Stevens said.

Stevens also commented on the warm weather, saying that it helped reinforce their message.

"The fact that it was warmer and that many people showed up is a good sign because people really cared," she said. "Since [the heat] could

be attributed to climate change, I feel like it strengthened our message."

Junior Darius Mostaghimi felt it was important that Hopkins students at the protest set an example for other young people.

"As a student from Hopkins, an incubator for future leaders and innovators of the world, I wanted to march to demonstrate that if the current generation of leaders won't take action, at least the next one will," he said.

Other protesters also emphasized the importance of young people acting as advocates. Emily Cross-Barnet, a senior at Washington College, represented her school's environmental advocacy group and said that it was important for youth to be vocal about fighting climate change.

"I think that people get excited when the youth are excited," she said. "They're galvanized by the support of young people. We're the future. I want to set a good precedent for the rest of our lives and for the younger generations too."

Cobi Frongillo, a sophomore at the University of Massachusetts Amherst said the march was so important to him that he came despite having upcoming exams.

"It just seemed like a good place to make connections and stand up for something I believed in. I prioritized it over some finals," he said.

Collaboration, Frongillo believes, is key to enacting change and actively working to help the environment.

"If we're not working together as a nation it's scary," he said. "There's so many issues that are coming really, really fast, and we're not even beginning to look for a solution."

Baltimore gardener Teresa Barnes expressed her disagreement with Trump but felt that the issue had been brewing since long before the presidential elections.

"I think that the Trump Administration is so blatantly disregarding even the existence of climate change but I think even before that we just haven't been acting with nearly enough urgency," she said.

Barnes added that the planet has the resources, desire and ability to address climate change and simply needs to take action.

"We have the technology to do it, we have the will to do it, we have people that need jobs that want to do it," she said. "I think that we just need to be moving a lot more quickly towards a solution."



COURTESY OF ANNA GORDON

Thousands protested the Trump Administration's climate policies.



NEWS & FEATURES

# Roundtable discussion reflects on the University's role in Baltimore



KUMAL MAITI/PHOTOGRAPHY STAFF  
Artist Saida Agostini feels the University acts in its own self-interest.

By SARAH Y. KIM  
News & Features Editor

Students, professors and guest speakers gathered for a roundtable discussion to share their experiences living in Baltimore and discuss the University's role in the city.

The event, "Living 'Hopkins' in Baltimore: An Immigrant City," took place on Friday, April 28, in Gilman. It was co-hosted by the Program in Racism, Immigration and Citizenship and the Program for the Study of Women, Gender and Sexuality.

Major themes of the discussion included the University's relationship with Baltimore and how race, gender and citizenship intersect to affect one's experiences in the city and beyond. Participants also deliberated over how the University may both benefit and undermine minority groups in the city.

Guest speaker Saida Agostini, the chief operating officer of FORCE: Upsetting Race Culture, an artistic activist organization, suggested that marginalized communities in Baltimore are skeptical about the University's

motives.

"If you are an organization or collective and are trying to do work in black communities and you're associated with Johns Hopkins, people are going to look at you sideways," Agostini said. "How is it we can provide resources to organizations that isn't about Johns Hopkins always getting credit?"

Agostini expressed concern regarding the relationship Hopkins researchers have with Baltimore.

"What we were witnessing over and over again was the increasing number of Hopkins researchers who had no connection to the community coming out [and] wanting to do research within the communities," she said.

In addition, Agostini said that the majority of Hopkins researchers she has encountered seem focused on ways they can

profit off the community, rather than contribute to it.

On the other hand, guest speaker Daniella Pozzo, an attorney who works with undocumented immigrants, spoke positively of the University's efforts to engage with the Latinx community.

"A lot of my clients go to the Latino clinic, available through Hopkins," she said. "There's a lot of wonderful support in the Hopkins community for immigrants."

Clara Han, associate professor in the department of anthropology, questioned whether the University was more "advocate" or "parasite." She also questioned the University's ability to foster civic engagement among faculty.

**"When I first moved here, what was striking to me was this Hopkins bubble."**

**— CLARA HAN, WGS PROGRAM DIRECTOR**

"When I first moved here, what was striking to me was this Hopkins bubble," Han said. "I found it quite suffocating. There's this perimeter where many of the faculty live, very close to the campus. You actually don't have any relationship to the city at all."

She went on to say that faculty could teach and conduct research without having to engage with Baltimore beyond the University's vicinity.

"Many of the faculty would say: 'I don't live in Baltimore. I live in Hopkins,'" she said.

Han asked participants where in Baltimore they

felt safe and what safety meant for them. She also asked how their notions of safety may be affected by racial biases.

Erin Chung, associate professor in the department of political science, said that the emergency campus alerts the University sends via email contribute to a widespread sense of unease.

"It's always about 'oh, I was there last night, I shouldn't be walking there again,'" she said. "It's that constant feeling that there's all this danger around us. That's the message these crime alerts end up giving us."

Chung, whose husband is African-American, said that the suspect descriptions make her fear for her husband's safety. She noted that the ethnicities of non-black suspects are not usually pointed out.

"The profile of the suspects are always the same," she said. "Black male. Medium build. Could be anybody. Reading these descriptions of a black male, it's always with a sense of uneasiness. He's probably a suspect too."

Han also criticized the crime alerts for being racialized and creating a sense of dread amongst student and faculty. She went on to condemn the University for contributing to gentrification.

"Faculty think they can only buy houses in certain areas," she said. "Or the University says you can get a loan and live here and work but you have to buy an extremely run down house and put all your sweat and equity into it and participate in the process of gentrification to displace everybody else who would be your

neighbor. It was just terrible."

Han commented on her experiences with racial discrimination while living in Baltimore.

"These kids that I knew started spurring out all of these horrible racist stuff to me. 'Chink, go home. Konichiwa!' Somebody threw a stone at me," she said. "I'm like, what is it going on here that made it different so that we couldn't be neighbors anymore?"

She added, however, that people were extremely polite after the 2016 presidential elections.

"Right after Trump was elected, it was so interesting," she said. "I'm walking in the park and other minorities would be like, 'hey, how are you, are you okay?' Everybody would be extra nice. And the white people had to be extra, extra nice."

Guest speaker Viviana Westbrook, an attorney at the Esperanza Center, which provides resources for immigrants, noted how Trump's win made her family and friends more vocal about political issues.

Westbrook, who grew up in Mexico with a white

American father and a Mexican mother, said that the paternal side of her family began expressing anti-undocumented immigrant sentiments.

"They made a whole comparison where they said when I invite somebody over to my house, if I invite someone over for dinner they're welcome to my food, but if you show up uninvited then I am welcome to shoot you," she said.

Shuo Yu Lai, a visiting student from Singapore, said that the discussion expanded his knowledge about the city.

"Since I'm a visiting student here, I spend more time in Hopkins rather than Baltimore," he said.

He noted that, compared to Baltimore, Hopkins had a relatively small African-American demographic.

"I was certainly not aware that Baltimore has a majority black population," Lai said.

Overall, he felt that the event was a good opportunity to reflect on issues pertinent to Baltimore.

"It's good to be able to discuss issues about the city instead of just the university," he said.

## Errata: April 27 Edition

In the April 27, 2017 edition of *The News-Letter*, the photo on the front page was misidentified. It was not, in fact, from this year's Homecoming game. It was from last year's game.

In the feature "Remembering the Baltimore uprising two years later," it stated that all six BPD officers involved in Gray's arrest and transport were acquitted. Only two were acquitted. Charges were dropped against the other four.

*The News-Letter* regrets these errors.

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## VOICES

Hopkins is a diverse university, where an incredible mix of cultures, academic interests and personalities coexist and thrive...

## Marine Le Pen cannot win the French election



Alicia Badea  
Political Compass

The French presidential election has followed the disturbing pattern of growing nationalism and far-right extremism that both Europe and America have experienced within the past year.

Currently, far-right extremist Marine Le Pen and independent centrist Emmanuel Macron have advanced to the second (and final) round of voting. The French election process has two tiers; More than 10 candidates participated in the first, although only five were considered true contenders. Significantly, it was the first time in French history that neither candidate of the two major parties — François Fillon of the center-right Republican party and Benoît Hamon of the left-wing Socialist Party — advanced to the second round.

While Macron and Le Pen have cultivated images as outsiders, both have been heavily involved in politics. Le Pen, a former lawyer, has been the leader of her party, the populist, nationalist and far-right Front National, since 2011, stepping down only last week in order to focus on her campaign for the presidency. Macron, a former investment banker, was first deputy secretary-general and later France's Minister of the Economy under current president François Hollande.

Due to his involvement in the government and his centrist position, Macron has the specter of the establishment hanging behind him. While the parallels are far from perfect, in a general sense, Macron versus Le Pen echoes Clinton versus Trump. The image of an outsider has worked in Le Pen's favor, and her openly Islamophobic, xenophobic and Euroskeptical attitudes have attracted a significant number of followers.

Macron's platform, on the other hand, is fairly status quo, with nothing particularly innovative. He's strongly pro-EU, favors reforming several business regulations to spur economic growth and draws ideas from both sides of the political spectrum. He ran independently, forming his own "movement" called En Marche!

Macron received 24.01 percent of the votes in the first round to Le Pen's 21.3 percent and is expected to win with a roughly 60/30 split in the final vote on May 7. Yet, uncertainty still lurks in the French election. As much as Macron may lack a vision for France, Le Pen's vision cannot be the one which triumphs. She is strongly protectionist, anti-globalization and anti-EU.

France is a major player

in the European political and economic spheres, and its removal from the EU would be a crippling loss to the organization as well as incredibly detrimental to France's own well-being. The EU and Europe generally would face a drastically different future if a "Frexit" took place. Germany would remain the only major player in the EU, throwing off the complex economic and political balance of Europe.

Moreover, Le Pen is a fascist. She has praised colonialism, denied France's involvement in the Holocaust, is unequivocally anti-immigrant, anti-Muslim and anti-refugee, and in reference to this last group, has explicitly stated that they should be "sent home." (She even implied that she, as president, will do so.)

Her own party, Front National, has an overt and well-known anti-Semitic past, from which Le Pen has been attempting to distance herself. She is also, unsurprisingly, anti-gay and has "traditionalist" views of gender roles. Her vision of France's future is one in which French identity is comprised of being French first, which to Le Pen and Front National, means white, Christian, and non-immigrant.

Both Republican Fillon and Socialist Hamon have urged voters to choose Macron, with the former saying there is no choice but to vote against the extreme right. *Le Monde*, a major center-right French newspaper, published an editorial in strong opposition to Le Pen after the first round results came out, stating that "the National Front party is incompatible with our values, our history and our identity."

While such a statement exploits ambiguity, there is no equivocation in the paper's opposition to Le Pen. Her candidacy is the next threat of authoritarianism, of fascism, of anti-democratic and anti-egalitarian ideals. Hopefully, on May 8, the French will not fall into the dangers of a Front National administration and a Marine Le Pen presidency.

## What do Arrow and Wicked have in common?



Catherine Palmer  
Catwoman

In the recent heart-warming *Flash-Supergirl* musical crossover episode, "Duet," *Arrow*'s John Barrowman, a Laurence Olivier Award nominee, rounded out a Broadway star-studded cast, which also featured *Glee*'s Grant Gustin, Melissa Benoist and Darren Criss.

Barrowman played a gangster in the episode's *West Side Story*-esque extended dream sequence rather than his *Arrow* character, the ruthless villain Malcolm Merlyn. But could we see an *Arrow* musical episode in the future featuring Merlyn and Oliver Queen (Stephen Amell) breaking out into a song and dance routine?

Probably not, but it got me thinking: The show's themes and characters are actually strikingly similar to those of the hit Broadway musical *Wicked*.

**1. Not So Popular:** The basis of *Arrow* is Oliver's life as a vigilante working to save Star City from corruption and terrorism. While Elphaba (Idina Menzel) was never defined as a vigilante, she is in a sense Oliver's counterpart in Oz, trying to prevent the silencing and enslavement of animals. Unfortunately, in trying to fight for what's right, they come out looking like the bad guys.

When Elphaba refuses to work with the Wizard (Joel Grey) to subdue animals, she is labeled "wicked" by the Wizard's press secretary Madame Morrible (Carole Shelley) and cited as a common enemy to rally more Ozians to the Wizard's cause. Her continued resistance only makes the label stick harder.

In season one of *Arrow*, Oliver returns to Starling City after spending five years stranded on an island, seemingly the same ever-eligible playboy as when he left. He has slightly better social skills

than Elphaba and the benefit of not being green.

However, when he secretly becomes a green-suited vigilante, Oliver is derogatorily labeled "The Hood," and painted as a dangerous criminal by the police. He is pursued by the police again in season three, almost to the point of prosecution. Hitting closer to home, his best friend Tommy Merlyn (Colin Donnell), the son of Malcolm Merlyn, calls him a "murderer" when he uncovers Oliver's identity near the end of season one.

**2. I'm Not That Boy:** While *Wicked* revolves around the complicated rivalry and friendship between Elphaba and future Good Witch of the South Glinda (Kristin Chenoweth), *Arrow*'s first season focuses partly on the complicated rivalry and friendship between Oliver and Tommy. Both relationships are tested by the presence of mutual love interests Fiyero (Norbert Leo Butz) and Laurel Lance (Katie Cassidy), respectively.

Initially, Fiyero, a shal-low, pre-island-type Oliver, hits it off with the similarly shallow Glinda, and Elphaba melancholically accepts that she doesn't stand a chance. However, as Fiyero matures, he begins a relationship with Elphaba, leaving Glinda jilted.

Once she comes to understand how much Fiyero loves Elphaba, though, she backs off and even tries to protect Fiyero from The Wizard's men. Elphaba and Fiyero are eventually reunited and leave Oz together.

Tommy, like Elphaba, never feels that he can measure up to Oliver. Tommy began a relationship with Laurel while Oliver was missing, which picks up again after his return. But this relationship ends when Tommy believes Laurel still has feelings for Oliver, even though he never actually asks.

Oliver calls him out for being a coward but then ends up sleeping with Laurel before Tommy has a chance to apologize to her. Oliver, Laurel and Tommy eventually make amends, but the one-night stand has profound effects on Oliver and Laurel going forward.

**3. No Good Deed:** In Elphaba and Oliver's attempts to save the day, their loved ones frequently become collateral damage due to circumstances beyond their control. For example, as a consequence

of her defiance, Elphaba's younger sister Nessarose (Michelle Federer), the Wicked Witch of the East, is murdered by Madame Morrible, who creates the tornado that brings Dorothy's house to Oz.

Glinda had told Morrible and the Wizard that the only way to capture Elphaba was to make her think her sister was in danger but is horrified when she realizes what she's done, because she never intended for Nessa to actually get hurt. Devastated by Glinda's betrayal and by that fact that her own actions are causing her loved ones to suffer, Elphaba vows to finally live up to her image as a villain.

Similarly, when Oliver refuses to become the head (or Ra's al-Ghul) of the League of Assassins in season three, the current Ra's stabs Oliver's little sister Thea through the heart. He promises that *Thea's life will be restored* in the League's Lazarus Pit as long as Oliver agrees to become his successor. Out of love for Thea, Oliver agrees and almost loses himself in darkness in an ultimately successful plot to cripple the League and kill the former Ra's.

**4. Bridges Crossed:** In the beginning of the second act, Glinda bittersweetly reflects on her falling out with Elphaba and subsequent rise to prominence in Oz, singing "There are bridges you cross you didn't know you crossed until you crossed." In other words, she hadn't really realized the full impact of what she was doing by abandoning Elphaba until it was too late. She



THE WESTERN SKY/CC BY 2.0  
Idina Menzel originated the role of Elphaba in 2003.

thinks their friendship is past the point of no return.

Oliver has a similar moment of realization during his flashback arc in season three after he brutally tortures an American army general responsible for infecting thousands of Hong Kong residents with a deadly virus, including a young boy Oliver had grown quite close to. Oliver fears there's a new darkness inside him that will never go away, and he makes the fateful decision not to return home when he has the chance, because he does not want his mother and sister to see what he's become.

**5. Because I Knew You:** Fortunately, both Glinda and Ollie prove themselves wrong. Glinda is able to reunite with Elphaba, if only briefly, and reaffirm their friendship. Then, when she believes Elphaba to be dead, she takes up her mantle. Inspired by Elphaba's bravery, Glinda takes on the corruption in Oz by sending the Wizard packing and Morrible off to jail.

Oliver, meanwhile, is profoundly changed when Tommy dies, saving Laurel from a man-made earthquake set off by Malcolm Merlyn at the end of season one. With his dying breath, Tommy apologizes to Oliver and expresses his belief that Ollie is a hero.

Thus, wanting to honor Tommy's memory and be the man Tommy thought he could be, Oliver rediscovers a humanity he thought he had lost and stops killing from season two onward, albeit with occasional relapses here and there.

## Why taking a break can be the most productive thing to do



Diva Parekh  
Copy Queen

Well, it's finally here. I am officially halfway through my time at Hopkins, as much as I would love to scream "LALALALA" at anyone who dares to bring it up.

Having spent the past hour shooting marshmallows at my friends using a \$5 marshmallow shooter from Spring Fair, I can't say I'm much of an adult. I still don't know what I want to do with my life. I'm so financially responsible that even if the marshmallow

shooter were \$25, I would still have bought it.

But somehow, even through all the ridiculousness, I don't think I've ever grown as much as I have this semester.

Spring didn't start off on the best note. I had just fallen off a horse and spent the entirety of intercession in a painkiller-induced haze. The first few months were occupied by cycles of physical therapy, pain, failed side planks, more pain, more physical therapy and \$800 medical bills.

I just never gave myself time to recover. I threw myself into my classes, helping organize SOHOP and of course *The News-Letter*. I attended every single baseball game, even the six-hour doubleheaders, and somehow I'd still finish my assignments. I'd limp around from meeting to meeting and forget to breathe in between.

And then, before I knew

it, I was out of breath.

Anyone who knows me knows that once I go in to copy edit on Wednesdays, they won't see me until Thursday. I was running on two hours of sleep in two days

because of SOHOP and *The News-Letter*. I had a test the next day that I hadn't studied for. My article coming clean about my childhood sexual abuse was about to be published the following week.

But suddenly, in the middle of editing an article, I broke. I left the Gatehouse hiding my tears and stumbled into Nolan's. My friend sat with me for an hour while I panicked, just listening, telling me I'd be fine, that

he knew I could do this even though I didn't.

I went back. I edited. I took the test and was pleasantly surprised when I got a 50 percent on it instead of a zero. In the next few weeks after that, I broke down at least five more times. First it was my OCD flaring up like it hadn't done since high school. Then it was the sleep-deprived anxiety that wouldn't let me sleep.

Then the article got published and I don't know why but every message of support I got made my blood pound until I couldn't handle it anymore and broke down crying again.

I don't know how many times I came into my living room holding

back tears that just spilled as soon as my roommates said hi. With every single incident, I felt even worse. My friends shouldn't have had to deal with the mess that I had turned into. I hated myself for letting them help me; I hated that I couldn't help myself.

I just kept going because I didn't know how to stop. I didn't know what would happen if I stopped. But then last week, I called my therapist at 3 a.m., and she could not have been more clear when she spoke above my panicky rambling, "Take. A. Break."

Well, this was the perfect weekend for it. My friends and I didn't really feel like going to the concert, so we decided to just walk around that night. We ended up at the baseball field, and just lay there. I don't know how long it was, but it felt like hours.

And for the first time in months, I took a breath.



## VOICES

Here is the section where you can publish your unique thoughts, ideas and perspectives on life at Hopkins and beyond.

## How 13 Reasons Why gets depression wrong



Alyssa Remshak  
Guest Columnist

If you've watched the show or have been following the debate, then you've probably read at least a dozen articles about Netflix's most controversial new release, *13 Reasons Why*.

For anyone who is not yet familiar with the show, it's the story of Hannah Baker, who commits suicide and leaves behind cassette tapes of 13 reasons why she made the decision to kill herself, and each of these 13 reasons is a person who receives the tapes.

The internet is divided about many aspects of the show, but the most hotly debated issue seems to be the graphic depictions of sexual assault and suicide.

While I do think the show is definitely more dangerous than helpful to those struggling with these issues, what the vast majority of people who have written on the show have ignored is that the screen adaptation of *13 Reasons Why*, regardless of what its creators intended, is not centered around Hannah at all.

Instead, it focuses on the aftermath of her death and the impact of the tapes on her classmates. The result of this is actually very ironic. While the creators justify the graphic depictions of sexual assault and suicide by saying they wanted to keep the show "authentic," they're just about the only difficult topics in the show that are portrayed realistically.

Unlike the show's novel counterpart, the majority of Netflix's *13 Reasons Why* is spent watching people react to the tapes and not on the content of the tapes themselves. Therefore, this is not a show directed at those who identify with Hannah but at those she speaks about on the tapes.

The ultimate effect of this focus is a strong anti-bullying message. However, centering the show on bullying instead of mental health perpetuates dangerous misconceptions about depression and suicide.

A line repeated many times in the show, by all Hannah's classmates who are on the tapes, is "Hannah's life was no worse than anyone else's. She was just a drama queen who wanted attention."

The general sentiment of this statement, the idea that people who have "good lives" don't have the right to be depressed, is a very real and very dangerous perception many people have of mental illness.

While life events can certainly aggravate a mental health condition, depression is first and foremost a problem in the chemistry of the brain. The show, however, never mentions anything about Hannah's mental health and insinuates that the suicide is a direct result of things that happened to her and *only* things that have happened to her.

This perpetuates the misconception that depression and suicide are just reactions to external factors, and therefore the show validates the belief it is supposedly trying to undermine: "[this person with depression's] life is no worse than anyone else's. They're just a drama queen who wants attention."

And this is not the only misconception of

**Depression is first and foremost a problem in the chemistry of the brain.**

depression that the show propagates. They talk about the outward symptoms of depression, "a drop in grades, social withdrawal, a change in appearance, stops doing things they enjoy."

Hannah does all these things, and of course no one notices. However, she is not the only character in the show with depression. Skye — who works at a coffee shop Hannah frequents, is covered in tattoos, wears only black, has colored highlights in her hair, gages and a chin piercing — struggles with self-harm.

It is also implied that she is socially withdrawn, does not get good grades and had a major change of appearance (from "normal" to "goth") when she began to face challenges with her mental health. While there are people with depression who exhibit all of the pamphlet "warning signs," and there are people with depression who dress "goth," these things are by no means characteristic of all people with depression.

Therefore, according to the show, anyone who loves to dress in bright colors, who gets good grades, who has a lot of friends and who is involved in their school or community could not possibly have depression.

This stereotype of depression, coupled with the idea that only people with objectively difficult lives commit suicide, ultimately makes people less likely to seek help and less likely to reach out to those who might need it.

While *13 Reasons Why* was certainly well-intended, it is far more directed at those who have the opportunity to help those struggling with depression than the people struggling themselves, and it gives a wholly inaccurate and toxic picture of the mental illness that it is supposedly intended to combat.

Combine this with its graphic nature, and the result is a destructive mess made out of a story that, in its novel form, touched thousands of lives.

## Reflecting on our year as Editors-in-Chief



Will Anderson  
Amanda Auble  
Chief's Notes

Last week, we sent *The News-Letter* off to the printer at 7 a.m. and finished the most rewarding and stressful year of our lives. Since our first week as Editors-in-Chief, we have tried our hardest to put out the best possible product, but the success of this paper never rested on us alone.

We're going to use our last article in this wonderful newspaper to thank all of you — writers, editors and readers — who held *The News-Letter* to a higher standard this year. We've made serious mistakes in the past, and we would like to thank the entire Hopkins community for giving us and student journalism another chance.

Journalism is inherently a group effort. We rely on our frontline reporters and writers, our photographers, our web and business teams and our editors. We work hundreds of hours as a team to produce our 24 pages of content every week. Without everyone doing their part, *The News-Letter* would never come out every Thursday.

This year's incredible staff helped us share the most important stories that have rocked our University. Activism on Homewood Campus has exploded, and we've been there every step of the way. From the Humanities Center protests

to the fossil fuel divestment movement, Hopkins students have shown that they're not apathetic, that they care about politics and the future of our University.

Two of our goals for this year were to use our platform to amplify the voices of the marginalized and to hold the University accountable for its actions both on campus and in Baltimore.

Through our strong news coverage and editorials, we've challenged the University to answer the questions that contract workers, black students and student protesters have been asking. But, of course, our coverage is nothing without the brave students and community members who have risked their own positions and power to challenge the status quo.

As a local paper, we're dedicated to Baltimore, and this year we've tried our best to work with the community. We can't ever forget that we're a part of this city and that our actions can sometimes do more harm than good. Sixty years later, Hopkins is still struggling with the legacy of Henrietta Lacks and its relationship with communities of color in our city.

*The News-Letter's* pieces on gentrification in Remington and the aftermath of the Baltimore uprising have brought the problems that the Baltimore community faces to the attention of those of us living inside the Hopkins bubble. It's important that our student body and the community have a space to pressure the University. That's what we've aimed to provide this year.

*The News-Letter* has shown its commitment to creativity in Baltimore too. Our Arts & Entertainment section has embedded itself in the vibrant music scene in Baltimore.

They've fostered good relationships with local bands and artists and told the student body about the wonders of social trap and Ty Dolla \$ign.

Next year, the Arts section will continue to value both Hopkins performance groups and the local arts scene. As funding for arts journalism declines, the presence of college newspapers has only become more important.

From Sports to Your Weekend and Cartoons, we've seen all of our sections improve over the past year. We hope the Voices section will continue to offer community members a free space to share their thoughts, opinions and perspectives no matter how often they are overlooked. Next year, we hope that our paper becomes a home for even more diverse voices.

After publishing the heartfelt and powerful stories in our special Identity Issue, we know that there are still so many incredible perspectives to share. We hope that you will continue to trust *The News-Letter* with your stories.

We place immense pressure on ourselves as student journalists, and

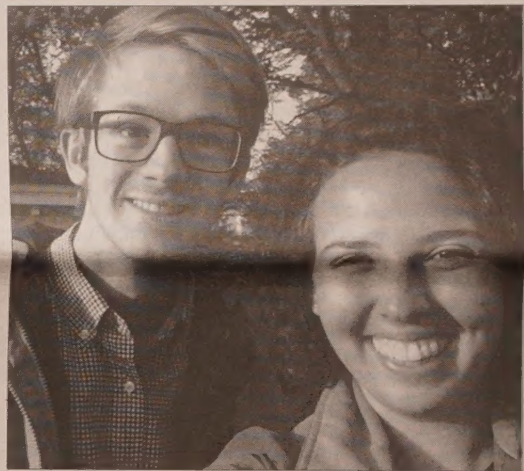
because of this shared responsibility, *The News-Letter* has become a family. Wednesday production nights are when we do our most crucial work but also when we have the most fun.

We're going to miss scribbling quotes on the walls and our late night treks to 7-11 to continue our caffeine-fueled madness. We'll miss the random screeching and the last minute edits on important articles, the ridiculous music and even the crises.

But of course we're going to miss our wonderful, hard-working editors and staff the most. You all have worked so hard, and we couldn't have asked for a better team.

Although we have to say goodbye to the Gatehouse and everyone who works inside, we're confident that *The News-Letter* under our successors Sam Fossum and Rollin Hu will only continue to improve. As our readers and community members continue to take action and ignite change, *The News-Letter* will continue to share and document their work.

Thank you for a fantastic year. We'll be reading!



COURTESY OF WILL ANDERSON  
Anderson and Auble just after sending their last issue to the printer.

## Thoughts on Woolf's "The Death of the Moth"



Bessie Liu  
Write Me

This weekend, my roommate and I trapped a fly in between the window pane and the screen shield after struggling to usher it out civilly through the door of our room. Since we couldn't actually open the screen to let it out from the window, we had to resort to the next best solution, which was keeping it trapped there so we wouldn't have to hear its buzzing all day and night.

Watching the fly search for a way outside, I was reminded of a short story by Virginia Woolf that I had read a long time ago, called "The Death of the Moth" (not a fly, but the same themes apply). In Woolf's story, the narrator describes watching the world outside from behind her window and being fascinated by the energy that

came "rolling in from the fields and the down beyond" and flowed between the trees, the birds and the horses.

She describes this same type of energy as what compels a moth to try to escape through the window. As the narrator watches the moth, however, she notices that it appears to be struggling against death and becomes somber as the moth finally succumbs.

I love the way that Woolf connects her observations of the moth with her observations of the natural world outside. She describes the scene outside with sweeping grandeur, using images such as "the earth was pressed flat and gleamed with moisture" and "the rooks... soaring round the tree tops until it looked as if a vast net... had been cast up into the air" to capture the energy and life that abounds in the environment.

She contrasts this vastness with the moth's small and seemingly mundane act of trying to escape a window it cannot open. According to Woolf, it is pathetically ironic that the moth devotes himself wholeheartedly to this minor struggle (from our perspective). "In spite

of the... width of the sky, the far-off smoke of houses, and the romantic voice, now and then, of a steamer out at sea."

Woolf's descriptions of the moth as "a tiny bead of pure life... dancing and zig-zagging to show us the true nature of life" shape the insect into a character that readers begin to become interested in.

Thus, when she reveals that the moth is dying, readers might even feel sorry for it. In watching the moth die, Woolf comments on the strangeness of switching between life and death, remarking that for some reason the power and energy that represents life was "indifferent, impersonal... somehow it was opposed to the little hay-coloured moth." In other words, for some reason, a force as looming and foreboding as death still cared to approach the small moth.

I personally admire how Woolf is able to change the tone so markedly from the first half of the piece. The changes in activities of the moth, going from dancing to dying, reflect the dying down of the tone itself. Of the moth, the narrator thinks of "all that life might have been had he been born in any other

shape," which vaguely raises the interesting question of whether or not the moth resents being a moth.

But Woolf doesn't delve into philosophical excursions, she merely brings them up and moves on, mimicking the energy she describes throughout the text. What I like about this piece is the great array of themes and images packed into such a short story. There is also a deep consideration of the impermanence of life that transcends the simple realization of this truth.

The fact that the narrator takes the time to observe the moth at all reveals something about her character, a certain kind of thoughtfulness and consideration for other forms of life.

I interpreted the fact that the narrator chooses to mourn the death of this moth that isn't even properly a moth as it flies around in daylight (as Woolf points out in the first sentence of her story) and celebrates his small victory for trying to fight the inevitable as a remark on the necessity of empathy.

But regardless, her vivid descriptions and flowing language launch the piece to grander heights than you might first expect.



the johns hopkins

NEWS-LETTER

Editorials

Enforce our current smoking policy

For the past three weeks, the Student Government Association (SGA) has debated lending its support to a campus-wide smoking ban. The potential resolution has reignited debate on campus, pitching some smokers and civil liberties advocates against public health campaigners and anti-tobacco activists.

The University's current policy requires that smokers stay at least 25 feet away from certain buildings, but it is not strictly enforced. Near the lower-level entrance to the Brody Learning Commons, two outdoor ashtrays are located right next to the door, exposing passing students to dangerous secondhand smoke. Smokers also often congregate around entrances of buildings like Gilman and Mergenthaler Halls, and directly outside the M-level entrance of the library.

Jackie Ferguson, Class of 2012, conducted a survey on smoking at Homewood. She discovered that nicotine had polluted 87.5 percent of the dorm rooms that she studied in AMR I and II. She also monitored the levels of nicotine in the library, finding that C- and D-levels were the most polluted because smokers were lighting up near the air intake vents for those levels. Because the deep levels of the library are cut off from air circulation, dangerous particulates remain trapped there, endangering members of

the community.

The Editorial Board recognizes the danger of secondhand smoke to the public health of passersby, and we strongly encourage the University to enforce its current 25-foot policy. Students and staff who are trying to study in Brody or walk to class should not have to breathe in nicotine.

At the same time, the Editorial Board firmly believes that members of our community should have the right to smoke. There is a difference between encouraging smokers to quit and infringing on their personal liberties by banning smoking on campus.

Many smokers want to quit, and many others want to keep on smoking. It is not the role of the University, SGA or this paper to tell them what to do but rather to support them if they do wish to quit.

Pushing smokers off campus will only serve to ostracize them. Many smokers at Hopkins are international students and campus workers, who are already less integrated into the broader Hopkins community. Pushing these two groups off campus will only reinforce their separation.

Some smokers have been addicted since their early teenage years. In low-income communities, big tobacco has targeted ad campaigns aimed at encouraging young people to smoke. Punishing those people, especially our custodial and dining

staff, would only add to the marginalization that they already face at Hopkins.

The Editorial Board encourages the University to move all ashtrays at least 25 feet from buildings but also ensure that smokers are not corralled into cramped areas in obscure locations.

The University and SGA could start a public relations campaign that relays the dangers of smoking. They could partner with the Center for Health Education and Wellness (CHEW) to provide resources, like subsidized nicotine patches, that could help members of the community curtail their habit.

Hopkins has demonstrated its disdain for smoking in the past, divesting the endowment from the tobacco industry in 1991 after a student-led campaign. As a University dedicated to public health, Hopkins should continue to encourage its affiliates to quit smoking but must balance its commitment to the personal liberties of its community members.

In April 2015, the Editorial Board made similar recommendations, but there has been no change. We commend SGA for seriously debating a policy that affects all members of the Hopkins community, and we encourage the University to listen to both sides of the argument when making any future decision.

LETTERS & OP-ED POLICY

*The News-Letter* encourages letters to the editor and op-eds. *The Johns Hopkins News-Letter* reserves the sole right to edit all op-ed pieces and/or letters to the editor for space, grammar, clarity, accuracy and style. This applies to the body of the submission as well as its headline. Upon approval for publication, all op-eds and letters to the editor become property of *The News-Letter*. *The News-Letter* reserves the right to not publish any op-ed or letter to the editor for any reason, at the sole discretion of the Editors-in-Chief. Letters to the editor are limited to 250 words, must address content previously published in *The News-Letter*, and must include the author's name, address and phone number. Letters must be received by 5 p.m. Monday for inclusion in that week's issue; they should be sent to [chiefs@jhnewsletter.com](mailto:chiefs@jhnewsletter.com) (with "Letter to the editor" in the subject line) or the mailing address below. To write an op-ed, contact [opinions@jhnewsletter.com](mailto:opinions@jhnewsletter.com). Op-eds are not limited in their length except as available space may dictate. All submissions may be published online as well as in the paper, and no anonymous submissions will be accepted.

Submittal of an op-ed and/or letter to the editor acknowledges your acceptance of and agreement to these policies. Any questions about these policies should be directed to the Editors-in-Chief of *The News-Letter* at [chiefs@jhnewsletter.com](mailto:chiefs@jhnewsletter.com).

the johns hopkins

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The Gatehouse

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HCPI marks a step in the right direction

Hoping to improve the neighborhoods surrounding Homewood campus, the University commissioned the Homewood Community Partners Initiative (HCPI) in 2012. The plan seeks to reconcile the University's interests with those of the local community. Through HCPI, Hopkins has committed \$10 million over the span of five years to the Central Baltimore Partnership (CBP), a group of 91 organizations dedicated to helping the 10 neighborhoods located just south of campus.

The Editorial Board commends the University's effort to make a difference in our community. The University is often criticized for a lack of involvement in Baltimore. Critics argue that Hopkins has a responsibility to the city because of the University's resources and position as the largest employer in Maryland. However, we encourage them to recognize the University's willingness to work with the community.

We also commend Hopkins for being frank and honest about its own interests in improving local neighborhoods. Along with defining goals to improve the Baltimore

community, HCPI also outlines the University's own goal to recruit and retain students. The initiative contends that the University's investments can change the perception that Baltimore is an unsafe or impoverished city. Although this goal is self-serving, the University does not hide its mission in this plan, and that transparency is worth acknowledging.

Because Hopkins offers its own students a world-class education, it is crucial that Hopkins also improves education in Baltimore. According to *The Baltimore Sun*, the city's schools face a \$130 million budget gap. As a result, public schools throughout the city are threatened by severe cuts to vital resources.

\$3.2 million of the \$7.6 million Hopkins has spent so far have gone toward improving nearby schools. The Editorial Board strongly supports this investment in local education.

While the University has worked to make sure its goals align with the needs of the local community, it is important to consider the plan's potential negative ramifications. Some community mem-

bers in Remington have raised concerns about gentrification raising property values and thus displacing poorer residents. Hopkins must recognize the pros and cons of such changes when moving forward. The University's initiative also reflects a greater trend in our city with greater development in neighborhoods like Station North and Mount Vernon.

The Editorial Board encourages students to learn more about HCPI and continue to track and scrutinize the University's activities in Baltimore. However, Hopkins has also had some positive impacts on surrounding neighborhoods, and these efforts should be recognized.

We also encourage the University to ensure that its interests and those of local communities truly align. Transparency in admitting the University's own self interests is admirable, but only if our school's interests actually serve the interests of the surrounding neighborhoods. As a model institution, it is important that Hopkins consider its fundamental role in Baltimore, the city we call home.



# OPINIONS

*With the exception of editorials, the opinions expressed here are those of the contributors. They are not necessarily those of The Johns Hopkins News-Letter.*

## Anti-Zionism is damaging to Arab-Israeli relations

By HOWARD SENIOR

A recent diplomatic spat between the German foreign ministry and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has once again thrust the Arab-Israeli conflict back into international prominence. Tensions between Israel and foreign governments and organizations seeking to ingratiate themselves with ostensibly “progressive” groups intent on, above all, the heavy-handed elimination of Zionism through brute-force methods (see: Boycott, Divest, Sanction) have soared over recent years.

The growing prominence of this “BDS” movement on college campuses across the United States, for instance, is just one symptomatic expression of the growing uptick of anti-Semitism across the entire political spectrum, manifesting itself primarily in opposition to Israel’s right to exist.

Thus, a heightened Israeli defiance of such myopic, virulently anti-Semitic policies is completely justified given what exactly is at stake. I therefore stand completely behind Prime Minister Netanyahu in his decision to cancel the scheduled meeting with German Vice Chancellor Sigmar Gabriel.

To explore the roots of the modern Arab-Israeli conflict and provide a bit of context for the rest of this article, we can invoke the 1947 report generated by the United Nations Special Committee on Palestine (UNSCOP) and the subsequent Arab-Israeli War of 1948. The UNSCOP partition plan called for two states, conjoined by an economic union, with borders allotted based on legitimate Jewish land purchases and Arab population centers.

The resounding Arab rejection of said plan, the instigation of a civil war and the intervention of six neighboring Arab powers due to dissatisfaction with the Palestinian Arabs’ performance in a war they started resulted in the situation we now have today: the Palestinian citizenry, bearers of a refugee status they can never shake, caught in the crossfire between bitter Arab states and Israel over a parcel of land they forfeited by starting a war they thought impossible to lose.

Back to BDS: Enumerating the many inconsistencies with which BDS is rife would greatly exceed the length of one opinion piece and bore any reader to tears, so I will attempt to abridge such a dissertation and hit the main points.

A salient characteristic of the BDS movement and those who support it is the branding of Israel as an “Apartheid state,” a moniker which, while deeply racist, stands to overtly whitewash the legitimate plight of those who suffered for decades under Afrikaner rule and the struggles of the African National Congress against an inherently unjust and racialized system. The Palestinian issue has no such origins, and to suggest so would be tantamount to invoking “Alternative Facts.”

Palestinian-Arab citizens of Israel are granted all the same rights Jewish citizens; They serve alongside Jews in the Israel Defense Forces (IDF), they vote in Israeli elections and serve in the Knesset, they use the same facilities as Jews and they’re permitted to marry whomever they’d like — all features noticeably absent from Apartheid in South Africa.

Some, however, may not be referring to the institutionalized “separateness” that defined

Apartheid but to the notion that Israel and the Palestinian Authority exist as semiseparate yet cohesive entities.

Juxtaposing the superposed state of the Palestinian Authority within Israel with the level of overt racism and disenfranchisement experienced by black South Africans not only betrays an acute level of ignorance, privilege and hyperbole but also a profound inability to consult either a dictionary or an encyclopedia.

Another argument for divesting from Israeli civilian institutions is to end the so-called Israeli “occupation” of the Palestinian territories. Little do proponents of BDS seem to know (or choose to ignore), but the IDF has been disengaged from the Gaza Strip since 2005; In the West Bank, Israeli forces continue to work with the blessing of the government in Ramallah (Fatah) in order to ensure the security of both Israeli citizens in Israel proper and Palestinians living in Areas A and B.

The depiction of the presence of Israeli security forces as some heinous “occupying power” has, simply put, no basis in fact; The ever-bountiful supply of rockets fired into Israel from Gazan UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) facilities by Hamas stands both as a flagrant violation of the Geneva Convention and a potent testament to this fact.

We must also consider the existence of BDS in the context of other BDS-lacking calamities that far exceed the scope and scale of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Not one BDS activist to which I’ve had the displeasure of speaking has mentioned starting a campaign to address the ongoing legitimate military occupation of Jammu and Kashmir by India and Pakistan; nor have they mentioned the necessity of a campaign against the government of Myanmar for their continued engagement in ethnic cleansing against the Rohingya people in the Burmese Rakhine state.

Darfur is forgotten, Nicolás Maduro’s flights of fancy are swept under the rug and Kurdistan is all but ignored. Lo and behold, the Arab-Israeli squabble, one that has resulted in fewer casualties in its entire duration than the Syrian people sustain in one year, has the largest cult following such a dispute has ever seen. The only explanation for this fanaticism, directed at the world’s only Jewish state (mind you, in a sea of Arab states), is anti-Semitism.

It is time for all self-respecting members of the progressive movement to shirk the toxic spectacle known as BDS.

Just about every reason for such a crusade’s existence is rooted in deep-seated prejudice against Israel’s right to exist, Judaism and those who practice it (a true global minority). It is our duty as champions of those who struggle against tyranny on the international stage and in the United Nations to do everything we can to mitigate it.

Those who seek to delegitimize and ridicule Prime Minister Netanyahu and dismiss his rejection of the German Außenminister as an overreaction to something seemingly minute but simultaneously purvey the concepts of microaggression and privilege should be called out on their hypocrisy and closeted anti-Semitism and disallowed from adopting the well-worn façade of self-righteousness.

*Howard Senior is a freshman majoring in applied math and statistics, International Studies and political science. He is from Miami, Fla.*

## Public health majors must learn about race



PUBLIC DOMAIN

North Avenue in Greenmount East, where the average life expectancy is only 66 years.

By JESSA WAIS

No one should graduate with a degree in public health without having at least a basic understanding of how racism impacts health disparities.

And yet, at Hopkins, it is excruciatingly easy to do so. In a couple weeks, over 200 students will graduate with a public health degree, and many will have gone their entire undergraduate career without taking a single class focused on race.

At its core, public health is about promoting and protecting the health of communities. When looking at the health of communities, one must look at the disparities in health outcomes that exist amongst different residents.

Public health professionals generally agree that racial health disparities are a major issue, and many are looking for ways to combat these disparities. Statistics from renowned organizations like the Center for Disease Control, the National Institute of Health, the World Health organization and more show that on average, white residents tend to live longer and have greater access to better health services than black residents.

Almost every public health major on campus understands that racial health disparities exist. Most just don’t know why. Talk with a typical student studying public health and they will be able to point out the stark differences in life expectancy that exist between Baltimore neighborhoods just miles apart. They would be familiar with the fact that residents in white neighborhoods like Roland Park are expected to live 84 years, while residents in black neighborhoods like Greenmount East are only expected to live until 66.

Ask them why these health disparities exist, and they would likely point to the difference in access to essential resources like healthy food and good schools. But if you ask why again, questioning how long these disparities have existed and why some neighborhoods have had continuously better access to these resources than others, you are likely to be met with surprise or confusion.

This is not necessarily their fault. Public health courses at Hopkins might touch on racial health disparities, but they rarely focus on them. And when race is discussed, racism is often left out.

The Public Health Studies website states the program’s “mission broadly focuses on the prevention of illness, disease, and health care inequalities.” However, none of the core competencies center on inequality. The “Requirements” section of the website explains “PHS majors take five public health core requirements in epidemiology, environmental health, health policy and management, social and behavioral aspects of public health, and biostatistics.”

Each of these requirements has an individual, specific class except for the social and behavioral aspects of public health. Four options are given, with two focusing more on the social side and two focusing more on the behavioral side. Only one of these classes focuses on race and racial health disparities. This is a 9 a.m. course titled “Cultural Factor of Public Health.”

The majority of students choose to take one of the other three choices. This means the majority of students in the program will never take a public health class that focuses on racism or on analyzing why health disparities exist.

Though the learning objectives and core competencies in-

dicating a lack of prioritization of health equity, other Hopkins entities like the Johns Hopkins Urban Health Institute (UHI) have clearly stated the importance of learning about and combatting racial health disparities. UHI was established in 2010 by the president of the University at the time, William Brody, to serve “as an interface between Johns Hopkins and the Baltimore community.”

The UHI has also released reports advocating the need for a greater focus on racism in the field of public health. In one report, UHI stated “It has been well documented that there are racial and ethnic disparities in health, leading some to erroneously conclude that race is the explanation for health disparities. Rather, the inequalities stem from differences in income, power, and control over one’s life.”

There are many types of racism, and the causes and effects are complicated. This is why adding a required, semester-long class that analyzes racial health disparities and the role of justice in the field is crucial to preparing students for the professional public health sphere.

This is not unheard of. The University of Washington recently altered their public health program to include the following as a core learning objective: “Recognize the means by which social inequities and racism, generated by power and privilege, undermine health.” This change was accompanied by an additional course all public health students are required to take: “Ethics, Social Justice & Policy in Public Health.”

Adding a core requirement like the University of Washington did will not make students experts, but it is definitely a start. Preparing students for a career in public health means preparing students to work with diverse populations. It also means preparing students to fight against inequality to work towards the goal of promoting health.

Racism is one of the most powerful, complex barriers keeping us from achieving a fairer, healthier society. If students do not learn about the role it has played historically and the role it continues to play, they will be vastly underprepared.

How can students be expected to combat health disparities without fully understanding them?

*Jessa Wais is a junior public health major from Baltimore, Md.*

## Students might not know rapists on campus

By WILLIAM BRYDEN

On April 20, *The News-Letter* ran a piece titled “Sexual assault at college: Confronting the rapists in our lives.” Although it is perfectly understandable where the author, a female senior undergraduate student studying International Studies, is coming from, there is a lack of some key points that provide the necessary context to fully comprehend the issue that King, the writer, brought forth.

Beginning with the study from the Bureau of Justice Statistics that she refers to in the first paragraph, King accurately states that the study “found that one in five undergraduate women will experience sexual assault while in college.” While her statement, taken straight from the study, is accurate, she continues on with, “That means you probably know someone who was raped at Hopkins. It also means you probably know a rapist.”

Now let’s look at the facts more carefully. King just extrapolated that there are rapists in our friend circles while citing a statistic that deals with sexual assault. Sexual assault is not the same thing as rape.

Let’s make that quite clear. In fact, a quick check of the Bureau of Justice Statistics’ website will show a well-defined difference between sexual assault and rape.

On the webpage about rape and sexual assault, rape is defined as “forced sexual intercourse including both psychological coercion as well as physical force. Forced sexual intercourse means penetration by the offender(s). Includes attempted rapes, male as well as female victims, and both heterosexual and same sex rape. Attempted rape includes verbal threats of rape.”

Sexual assault is then clearly defined in its own paragraph as being “a wide range of victimizations, separate from rape or attempted rape. These crimes include attacks or attempted attacks generally involving unwanted sexual contact between victim and offender. Sexual assaults may or may not involve force and include such things as grabbing or fondling. It also includes verbal threats.”

Thus, it is clear that the statistic referenced by King has no implication on rape and its actual frequency in college. Moreover, much earlier in the report on page ES-7 (19 of the PDF), the

report states the following:

“The average victimization incidence rate for rape per 1,000 undergraduate females was 54, and ranged from 28 at School 9 to 110 at School 5.”

This statement would indicate that the study performed by the Bureau of Justice Statistics actually finds that, on average, about one in 20 undergraduate women will experience rape while in college. Of course, this statistic is also abhorrent and universities should take measures to reduce this rate to zero. However, we must not misrepresent the case as King did in her article.

King’s misrepresentation implies that we likely know far fewer rapists than the article indicates. Although her intentions may be noble, the impact of this distortion can be devastating by shaping readers’ minds who are unfamiliar with the topic.

As U.S. citizens, we are guaranteed due process by the Constitution. The accused are innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt. Therefore, a person accused of rape is not automatically a rapist, nor should they be treated as such until proven otherwise.

*William Bryden is a junior economics major from Conway, Ark.*



# Farewell



## The 2016-2017 Editors

Top, from left to right:

Audrey Holt, Kareem Osman, Stephanie Herrera, Veronica Reardon, Will Anderson, Sherry Kim, Scott Zheng, Gaurav Verma, Amanda Auble

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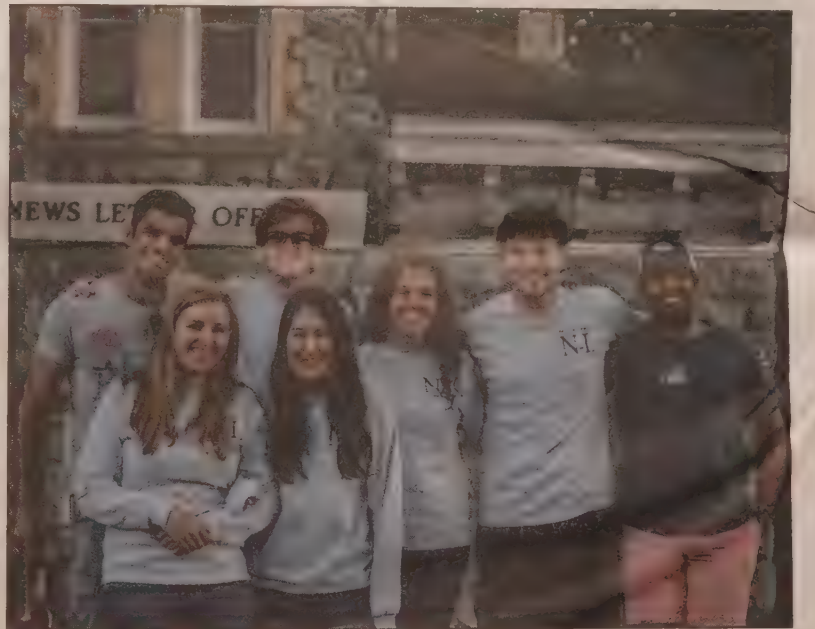


## Our Chiefs

Dear Amanda and Will,

We could have never dreamt of better chiefs than you two. Your guidance, expertise and passion has irrevocably redefined the legacy of *The News-Letter* for the better. Through our crises and through our accomplishments, you both have led the way and set a high standard for all the editors who will follow you. We look forward to seeing what exciting endeavors you both take on as you leave Hopkins and make your mark on the world. Just remember that The Gatehouse will always welcome you.

With love,  
Rollin and Sam



## Seniors

From left to right:

Kareem Osman, Audrey Holt, Will Anderson, Sherry Kim, Amanda Auble, Andrew Johnson, Gaurav Verma

Not pictured:

Mia Capobianco, Dubray Kinney, Scott Zheng, Veronica Reardon, Stephanie Herrera, Jane Jeffrey, Jenny Wagner

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All our readers!**



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N-L

YOUR WEEKEND • ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT • CARTOONS, ETC. • SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY • SPORTS

MAY 4, 2017



## Arts & Entertainment

Headliners A\$AP Ferg and Aoki dominate Spring Fair — B3  
Students curate *Asger Jorn and CoBrA* exhibition in MSE — B4  
DJ Quik and JMSN trendset with new album releases — B5



## Science & Technology

Frog slime discovered as possible cure for influenza — B7  
Sustainable solution converts glass waste into batteries — B7  
Sugary diet can increase risk of stroke and dementia — B9



## Sports

W. Basketball Coach Nancy Funk announces retirement — B11  
W. Lax beats Rutgers to secure spot in Big Ten Tournament — B12  
*Comrade Andy*: Racism in Major League Baseball — B12



# YOUR WEEKEND MAY 4 - 7

## Events in Baltimore Beer, bikes, bluegrass: my Balti weekends this weekend

### Thursday

#### Building an Inclusive Baltimore. The Baltimore Museum of Art. 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Perspectives from professionals in conflict resolution, behavioral science and art.  
Free, seating limited.

### Friday

#### Memorial Players presents *The Secret Garden*, Memorial Episcopal Church, 7:30 p.m.

The premier of the classic Lucy Simon musical from Bolton Hill's community theater. Free.

#### True Laurels Zine Second Issue Release Party, New Beginnings Barbershop, 7 - 9:30 p.m.

Attendees of this event can read and purchase the second edition of this Baltimore based and focused zine. Like the previous issue, it will feature unknown and untapped Baltimore artists.  
Free.

#### Karaoke Forever, The Crown, 9 p.m.

Sing your heart out at the First Friday edition of this popular karaoke event. Free.

### Saturday

#### Beach House Presents *Vagabond*, The Parkway Theater in Station North, 7 p.m.

As part of the week-long Maryland film fest, members of Baltimore-based dream pop band Beach House will present the film *Vagabond* to be screened on 35mm in the newly restored Parkway Theater. \$10 for students.

#### Kinetic Sculpture Race, American Visionary Art Museum, 10 a.m.

Check out a race between works of art created by tinkerers, not engineers. These wacky rides traverse land and sea through the city. Free.

### Sunday

#### Sunday Night Vibes: Yoga, Movement Lab, 6 - 7 p.m.

Take a vinyasa class taught by some of the "Yogi Rockstars" of the Lab. Afterwords, stick around to enjoy drink specials at R. Bar. A limited number of mats are available. Free.

By VERONICA REARDON  
Your Weekend Editor

This semester has truly been a sprint to the finish. At the end of it, I graduate and leave Baltimore at least for the summer, if not longer. This comes with a lot of nostalgia. However, I haven't gotten a chance to deal with it: I've been trying to enjoy my Hopkins "lasts" like my last Spring Fair, my last Outdoor Pursuits trips and events and of course the looming deadlines of my last set of final projects.

After all of this, one of my top priorities will be both to visit all my favorite old off-campus haunts and to see the ones I've always meant to get to. This will be a look at the old ones. Here are some reminisces about my four years of weekends here in Baltimore.

My freshman year, I barely went off campus. While I did go to Hampden and, thanks to a socially engaged friend, Red Emma's and the Baltimore Free Farm, I had no idea how much the city had to offer.

Like many freshmen, I spent most of my weekend fun time sweating on other undergrads in fraternity basements. While I went running occasionally to Druid Hill Park, I didn't spend a ton of time there. Baltimore was just the place that Hopkins happened to be.

As a sophomore, I decided that there had to be more to life than what was on campus. I saw Susan Alcorn, the amazing and very strange steel pedal guitarist, and some other not quite as striking musicians play at The Crown. That was my first taste of the amazing and weird music scene in Baltimore.



COURTESY OF HANNAH MELTON

The Baltimore Bike Party is a great way to explore new parts of the city and meet some locals.

A friend of mine knew a guy in a punk band then, and we went to their shows at the Windup Space and other places around town.

Again, I was sweating all over people for fun on the weekend, but it was much better than frats. This was mainly because pushing is allowed, even encouraged, at punk shows, which makes a huge difference in the amount of fun you can have.

I started going all over Baltimore exploring, going to readings and open mike nights and enjoying concerts and talks. I found that my life got a lot crazier but that it also got a lot more interesting: We live in a fantastically rich city in terms of the arts, diverse in its people and with a character I haven't found anywhere else.

Baltimore is horrifyingly violent and a depressing place for many people less privileged than I, but it is also a place full of incredible, unique people that are innovators of thought and art and politics and science, many of them unaffiliated with Hopkins. I had just begun to discover that, and I feel that I am still just beginning.

At the end of that year, an RA introduced me to the weekly bluegrass and old time jams at Liam Flynn's, and my world was transformed.

My junior year, I got to know the old time and bluegrass communities here rather than go to random events. In doing so, I got to go to house concerts, got to know some truly wonderful people of all ages and realized how much of an amateur musician I am, but in a good way: There are so many talented people out there!

While I didn't meet people from as many different scenes in Baltimore or see as many diverse performances, my experience got some wonderful depth.

Margaritas at Holy Frijoles did become an occasional girls' night event for my roommates, and I went to The Brewer's Art for the first time.

On one particularly memorable night last year, I went to Long John's with some friends, and one of them got slapped for being obnoxious. Another night, I remember riding on my friend's shoulders as he walked down the street, fiddling down

North Charles street on the way to The Crown.

That summer I learned how to bike around Baltimore. One of my favorite memories is biking home from Druid Hill, coasting back to campus in the dimming light of the evening after a long day in the sun, feeling tired and relaxed.

This year I've had to stop going places in Baltimore so much. It makes me especially sad now that nostalgia is setting in.

Yes, I went to Artifact Coffee for the first time ever this year, but it was to study for hours, and I almost entirely stopped going to the jams that gave me so much joy last year. Yes, I've been out to Fell's a few very fun times, but it was more about running around drinking with my boyfriend's buddies than it was about exploring a space and enjoying a culture.

My takeaway from four years in Baltimore is really that it's not nearly enough time to get to know such a rich and fascinating place.

While I'm excited to move on, I am sad to leave so much behind. Here's to four awesome years in Baltimore. Maybe I'll be back.

## Off campus study spots bring new experiences

By RACHEL UNDERWEISER  
For The News-Letter

Lately it feels as though the entire student body has moved into Brody. We've all been there: the sad moment when they announce the service desk is closing for the night and the even sadder moment when it opens again the next morning.

But if you've exhausted the breakfast sandwich selection at Brody Café and started to recognize coffee stains on M-level, don't worry: There are other options.

There are many great study spaces beckoning to be visited beyond the Hopkins bubble where, believe me, you won't have to fight for a seat.

At the beginning of this semester, I decided to start my own Instagram blog to document all my favorite places to go in Baltimore and little ways to get off campus and explore.

Even though we are in the crunch time of the semester, there are many ways to make the most out of Baltimore while still getting things done. You can even increase your productivity by changing your scenery.

For times like these when I am overwhelmed by deadlines, I usually

end up in Hampden or Mount Vernon.

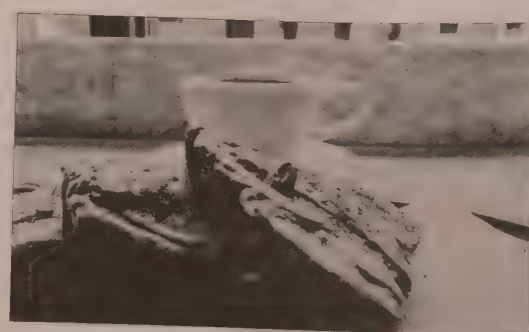
If the weather is nice, Hampden is the perfect walking distance away from campus, giving you a chance to clear your head and breathe. Getting outside, even if just for an hour, can increase concentration and lower stress levels.

So, the walk over isn't a break, but a continuation of your study strategies. By recharging your mind, you are a step closer to slaying those finals.

Hampden has an amazing assortment of places to explore, but when on a mission to get work done, I have two favorites: Spro Coffee and Common Ground, both of which have perfect outdoor spaces.

Most of the times I go, I grab a drink and something to eat (the muffins from both places are outstanding), put on headphones and soak up the sun with the backdrop of colorful rowhouses to help me think.

And if you're looking for a little nook, both Spro and Common Ground have secluded areas in the back of their shops where people don't go unless they plan on cranking out work, so you can easily set up a laptop and plug away, all without worrying about finding a seat.



COURTESY OF RACHEL UNDERWEISER

Avocado toast and a cup of tea at Dooby's makes a great study snack.

Although a little farther from campus, Mount Vernon is less than a 10 minute ride on the on the JHMI: about the same amount of time it takes to walk from Gilman to Starbucks.

My favorite daytime places in Mount Vernon are Koffee Therapy and Dooby's. Koffee Therapy is like a cozy living room in your best friend's apartment. The owner will chat with you, give you suggestions and treat you like family.

I find myself always choosing to sit on their brightly colored couches, with perfectly sized tables for my laptop, and no one cares how long I stay. If you prefer to work outside, they have a backyard patio that is cocooned by brick buildings covered in ivy, free from distractions.

My go-to order at Koffee Therapy is their

ceremony tea, which is made in-house using all organic ingredients.

If you're looking for a more sleek, modern vibe, Dooby's is another place that is conducive to getting work done.

Right around the corner from the Peabody Conservatory, Dooby's is surrounded by counter-tops and stools, making it the perfect hub for doing work.

Their food menu is packed with enough options to satisfy any potential craving, from a simple avocado toast to a filling rice and vegetable bowl.

Fun Dooby's tip: There are outlets under every counter, so you never need to leave.

What started as a fun activity to Instagram has created tons of fun Baltimore memories for me, and I hope you can create some too.



# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## Ferg and Aoki shine at Spring Fair concert

By WILL KIRSCH  
Arts & Entertainment Editor

The titular Spring Fair concert was held at the very august Ram's Head Live in the Inner Harbor on Friday, April 28. The headliners — and indeed the only performers except for a guy who Ferg brought whose name I didn't catch — were DJ Steve Aoki and the Hood Pope himself: A\$AP Ferg.

Perhaps an introduction: I have work until seven at night on Fridays, which on most weekends is a reasonable schedule. Getting off at seven gives me plenty of time to get home and eat before I engage in nighttime activities.

However, this was Spring Fair, and joining the party at seven put me at about an eight-drink deficit. So, slightly behind but fresh off the job and well equipped with 40 ounces of National Bohemian, I began my night. This was, surprisingly, my first Spring Fair concert ever, so new experiences abounded.

Several hours and roughly 64 ounces of lite beer later, I found myself on a very sweaty bus headed downtown, having a pleasant discussion with two other people on the virtues of mosh pits. Ram's Head is, as far as venues go, fairly mediocre.

If you're determined, it's possible to get relatively close to the stage, although if you're vertically disadvantaged — which I am — the only thing you'll be seeing is the sweat-soaked back of whatever drunk dude is standing in front of you.

Side-note: Water is no longer free at Ram's Head, which is honestly borderline sadistic, and whoever made that decision needs to reevaluate their sense of morality.

When you host EDM concerts on a not-infrequent basis, you should give out free water. People are going to be on drugs and when you try to get those people to pay for water, they're just not going to drink it, and someone will die.

I don't know what capitalist goon runs Ram's Head, but they have officially established themselves as a horrible human being.

Anyway, after some milling around and a good set by a DJ who looked like a hypebeast version of Owen Wilson, the Hood Pope emerged to deliver his sermon. My optimism for Ferg's performance was measured: I had heard stories of him pulling the trick of coming out on stage for way less time than was

SEE SPRING FAIR, PAGE B5

## Hulu's Handmaid's Tale captivates viewers



DOMINICK D/CC BY-SA 2.0  
Actress Elisabeth Moss plays the lead role in *The Handmaid's Tale*.

By KATHERINE LOGAN  
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Back in April of 2016, when it was first announced that a TV adaptation of *The Handmaid's Tale* was coming to Hulu, no one had any idea how culturally relevant it would feel after its release.

Here, I want to pause and emphasize the word "feel," because although issues of women's rights have gained more trac-

tion in the news cycle of late, they were equally relevant when the novel by the acclaimed author Margaret Atwood was published in 1985.

In fact, you would be hard pressed to find a time in history when women's bodies weren't in some way or another under threat.

*The Handmaid's Tale* tells the story of Offred (Elisabeth Moss). The story takes place after a theocratic military dictatorship — founded

by a fundamentalist Christian group called "Sons of Jacob" — has overthrown the government in a coup d'état, transforming the United States into a dystopian society called Gilead.

Additionally, after years of being exposed to contamination from chemicals, fossil fuels, pervasive sexually transmitted diseases and more, infertility rates have risen among women.

As a result, the men in power dictate that all of the remaining fertile women be forced into the role of "handmaids," bearing children on behalf of the upper-class, barren women. This is directly tied in with the story of Rachel and her handmaid Bilhah, who bore Jacob's children in the Old Testament's Book of Genesis.

A disappointing but all too familiar debate over the infamous "f-word" — feminism — arose during the show's Tribeca Film Festival discussion panel, when the cast emphasized the show being a "human" rather than feminist story. This was only heightened by Moss's comments that, "For me, it's not a feminist story. It's a human story. And women's rights are human rights."

While the language surrounding the promotion of a show may seem like a minor issue, the way we discuss culture matters. Yes, women are human, but we face different societal pressures and threats that men don't.

Creators need to embrace the feminist label, even if that risks ostracizing some viewers. Otherwise, the stigma and

stereotypes surrounding the word will continue to be perpetuated.

That said, if anything, this misstep only generated more buzz for the show, and admittedly, the first three episodes of the limited series lived up to the hype. Elisabeth Moss's performance as Offred is compelling.

Even in her quietest moments, the viewer can understand her struggle to maintain a composed and collected outward appearance while internally holding out hope that she will one day be reunited with her young daughter.

There is a dissonance in her emotional state, a kind of self-preservative effort that is virtually impossible not to connect with on some level.

However, it's the minor players — Alexis Bladel and Samira Wiley as fellow handmaids Ofglen and Moira — that really make these episodes great. What might Bladel have been capable of outside the relatively "fluffy" realm of *Gilmore Girls* and *The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants*?

Her fans know, and their wildest dreams have been realized. She is a fantastic actress. In the third episode, "Late," she doesn't utter one line but portrays the widest array of emotions yet.

Meanwhile, there have never been any doubts about Wiley's talents, but her portrayal of Moira in the show's flashbacks adds a much-needed degree of levity — however dark — to *The Handmaid's Tale*. Both characters also serve the vital role of emphasizing the importance of female connection.

SEE HANDMAIDS, PAGE B5

## Gorillaz release long-awaited album Humanz



Dubray Kinney  
Yikes

**H**umanz is by far the weakest album Gorillaz have ever released. In a lot of ways it feels like an album that I should theoretically like. The collaborations are all with people that I enjoy heavily (Danny Brown, De La Soul, Vince Staples, Pusha T).

But instead of smoothly blending into the tracks or doing anything interesting, these collaborators mostly just blend into a disappointingly bland mixture of noise.

For almost 20 years, Blur's Damon Albarn and Tank Girl artist Jamie Hewlett have been creat-

ing the multimedia experience that is Gorillaz. The band, which is virtual in their external appearance consists of four members, vocalist 2-D, drummer Russel Hobbs, guitarist Murdoc Niccals and bassist Noodle.

It offers collaborations between artists that one would typically never expect to see on the same album, let alone the same track.

The band exemplified social media marketing before Twitter or Facebook had taken off. Everyone had heard of the band from different sources, whether it was from their cartoonish shorts that aired between music videos on MTV or their equally playful yet sometimes bleak music videos.

Gorillaz were a seminal band in my upbringing. They are the first music project that I listened to that successfully mixed two of my loves, alternative hip-hop and indie rock. *Demon Days* was one of the

first five albums I ever bought legally; I got it and The Killers' *Hot Fuss* for \$20 at a Walmart when I was eight.

The rollout of *Plastic Beach* around my freshman year of high school was a fully-fledged event for me; I poured through hints about the new album on their website in the weeks before the release.

So anyone could understand my disappointment last Friday as I sifted through each track only to find that the album didn't really evolve past the quality of the first few singles.

Maybe that's where the biggest element of my disappointment comes from, that the first singles Albarn and Hewlett released were the album's strongest tracks (other than a handful of standouts here and there) on a crowded 20 song track listing, though that includes interludes.

Let's start with what's good with the album. Some of the songs really

push the maniac attitude of the "post-election-night end-of-the-world party" concept that Albarn is trying to craft. The transition from the danceable and uncontrollable energy of "Andromeda" to the sullen sounds of "Busted and Blue" helps make those songs two of the album's best.

This end-of-the-world vibe can be felt throughout several songs on the album, like the opening skit's lead-in to the fantastic song "Ascension" featuring great verses from Vince Staples. In terms of rapping, this song is the best on the album.

In fact, some of Vince's strongest lyrics overall are on this song, such as the verse in which he raps: "I'm just playing, baby, this the land of the free / Where you can get a glock and a gram for the cheap / Where you can live your dreams long as you don't look like me."

"Hallelujah . Money" is another treat on the album featuring great spoken word verses from British artist Benjamin Clementine combined with great backing vocals that really sink you deep into the decadent despair that the track is surrounded in.

One of the biggest problems with the album, however, is related to the manner in which it was released. The band released five tracks as singles in the months leading up to the album's release, and in my opinion, all five of these tracks were among the album's best, to the point that the other songs felt

## Boomerang is perfect album for finals stress

By JACOB TOOK  
News & Features Editor

If you've been searching for a soundtrack for finals week, look no further. Indie pop artist Elliot Moss has that perfect slow, subdued vibe that is so well suited to all-nighters in Brody when you need some light background music to

Boomerang's...  
psychedelic  
album cover  
heralds what the  
listener will find  
within.

That's not to say that his music is only suitable to accompany you stress eating at 3 a.m. because you haven't started that essay that's due at noon. Moss' music is flexible and offers a good variety of sound.

With the release of his latest project, *Boomerang*, Moss now has two stellar albums under his belt. Each track on both albums offer something unique while still fitting into the weighty electronica flow that is characteristic of the artist.

Moss' deliciously psychedelic album cover heralds what the listener will find inside: an even mix of the broody and

the more upbeat, unified under an intoxicating current that guides one from track to track. The project speaks to a range of themes, but Moss particularly focuses on mortality and past love, which often lends the tracks a terse internal anxiety.

The album's intro, "Closedloop," lives up to the name with several refrains like, "it'd be better if the world would all slow down" and, "I can't tell you what it told me." These repeat

throughout the track to set up the sense of anxiety that runs through the project.

"Closedloop" was one of the album's singles, following "Without The Lights," which was the first new music Moss released after his 2014 project *Highspeeds*.

Following "Closedloop" on the track list, "Without The Lights" has a more ethereal sound that blends wavy production with simple

SEE BOOMERANG, PAGE B4



WONKER/CC-BY-2.0

Former lead singer of Blur, Damon Albarn, formed Gorillaz with *Tank Girl* cartoonist Jamie Hewlett.

SEE HUMANZ, PAGE B4



## ARTS &amp; ENTERTAINMENT

# Students curate and design exhibit of avant-garde art

By ELIZABETH MARIE DOHERTY  
For *The News-Letter*

The Milton S. Eisenhower M Level Exhibit space welcomed a student produced exhibit entitled "Asger Jorn and CoBrA." The exhibit, which was shown on April 26, was designed by students in the class "The Long Sixties in Europe" taught by Art History Professor Molly Warnock.

All ten student had a hand in choosing a piece held by the Hopkins Special Collections. Students designed every aspect from the labels, to the exhibit's layout.

The collection explored the career and influence of avant-garde Danish painter, sculptor and author Asger Jorn as well as CoBrA, a European artistic movement from the late 1940s and early 1950s.

The name comes from the initials of the found-

ing member cities - Copenhagen, Brussels, and Amsterdam.

The pieces in the exhibit explore the many collaborative projects Jorn participated in. These ranged from Revolutionary Surrealism to CoBrA and the Situationist International, which involved artists from around the world.

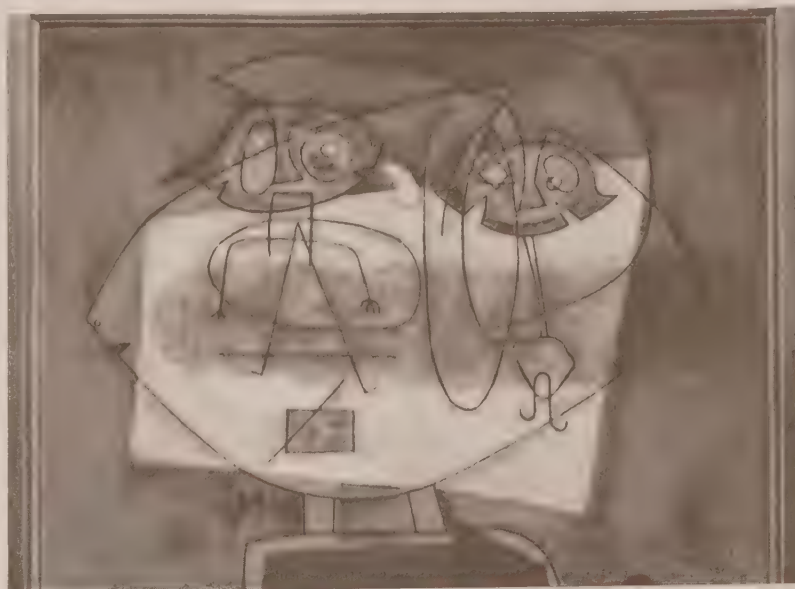
The exhibit includes items like clandestine pamphlets and posters from the May 1968 protests in France. The

**"The opening of the exhibit was an imerisve experience with student-made activities."**

exhibit is intended to "urge us to embrace 'creative intelligence' - a rallying cry that still resonates today," as described by the event page.

The opening of the exhibit was an immersive experience with student-made interactive activities that represented the playful nature of Jorn's work.

One of the activities, entitled "Ascetic Satyr," was based off of a collection of love letters between Jorn and his lover,



HELENA/CC-BY-2.0

Danish artist and author Asger Jorn was one of the founding members of the CoBrA movement

Jacquelin de Long. The students used ripped and recycled paper for people to write cryptic notes and their thoughts about the exhibit as an homage to the love letters.

Maya Kahane, a sophomore History of Art and Marketing and Communications major studying the "Long 60's" elaborated on what it was like to make the exhibit.

"Putting together this exhibit was an extremely unique curatorial project

that gave me a hands-on experience and insight into the museum world," Kahane wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*, "Professor Molly Warnock is absolutely brilliant and the ideas/visions she had for the overall exhibit as well as curating various items from special collections was well thought out."

According to Kahane, Warnock made sure every student was involved in curating the exhibit.

"[Warnock] really gave us tremendous creative freedom and the ability to think deeply about what we were doing," she wrote. "I will carry this curatorial experience I had in class as I work at the Museum of Modern Art in NYC this summer!"

Make sure to check on the exhibit for yourself. It will remain in the M-level main hallway through August. Pieces are displayed in the glass cases for easy viewing.

## Elliot Moss second album succeeds

**BOOMERANG, FROM B3** beats and Moss' introspective lyrics that he croons out with his tenor vocals.

The album's third track "99" is by far the standout. Moss' evocative lyrics seem to float precariously above a surprising but successfully executed trap beat and the same dreamy synth production that marks all of his tracks.

The lyrics are poetic, referencing concrete images that are strung together in an abstract expression. It's almost a battle cry but twisted around by the haunting repetition of "I may never come home." The tension underlying most of Moss' songs is especially apparent here, with the melancholy lyrics underscored by the emotive rhythm.

Title track "Boomerang" is one of the weaker ones of the project. Thematically it doesn't do much that's new or unexpected, and while it does have a distinctly different sound from the rest of the project, that detracts somewhat from its overall cohesion.

Considering its placement right in the middle of the track list and its governance of the album's title, it seems like Moss was trying to make "Boomerang" the crown jewel of the project. It's a pretty underwhelming jewel though, one that drains the album's energy away.

Fans can catch Elliot Moss at the infamous venue DC9 in Washington, DC on Wednesday, June 21. His North American tour continues through July 1, when he will finish up with a stop in Chicago, Illinois at Live on Lincoln.

## Gorillaz's latest album Humanz lets down fans

**HUMANZ, FROM B3** bland in comparison. There's also this overwhelming feeling that I get that the album, while strung along via the "end of the world party" theme, has no cohesive idea or voice.

This feels less like a Gorillaz album to me than a Damon Albarn & Friends album. *Plastic Beach* managed to get away with such a long list of collaborators but perhaps it would be better to shrink the circle a bit in the future.

This is without mentioning the vibe that some of these features feel phoned in, or out of place at points.

The Popcaan feature on "Saturn Barz" results in a crooning yet annoying vibe that makes the song one of my least favorite releases in the entirety of Gorillaz's discography.

The Danny Brown feature on "Submission" is one I found myself looking forward to coming off the heels of Atrocity Exhibition, as well as his involvement on The Avalanches *Wildflower*. But it just comes across as flat and a bit uninspired.

The interludes are a mixed bag, coming across as either vital to the experience or pointless and contrived. The penthouse and talk radio skits in particular are rather void of much substance with the latter wasting a great

opportunity for something better from the frequently underrated Ben Mendelsohn.

The biggest strike against the album is that the majority of the songs are just so forgettable. "Carnival", "Charger", "Sex Murder Party", "She's My Collar" amongst a few other songs just feel like loose tracks that are aimless in their intent.

If you listen to the album, make sure to grab the Deluxe Edition since the additional tracks are actually better than half the songs on the base album. "The Apprentice" is a great song with a strong chorus from RAY BLK and Rag'n'Bone Man.

The disappointment really set in for me when I realized that I had been waiting seven years for this album but it just wasn't for me. There are great songs here that I'll probably revisit quite a bit ("Andromeda", "Ticker Tape" and "Busted and Blue" especially), but, for the most part, I won't be listening to this album in full again.

At least, not without a good argument as to why I should revisit it. Who knows though, maybe this is a grower not a shower. Or maybe Damon and Jamie will come back in another seven years and make something more adventurous. I guess I'll be waiting until then.

## Film Festival promises exciting schedule

By WILL KIRSCH  
Arts & Entertainment Editor  
& SARINA REDZINSKI  
For *The News-Letter*

It's been many a year — about five — since we've heard anything from the iconic D.C. punk band Bad Brains. Time and personal problems have prevented the band from getting together for studio work since their 2012 album *Into the Future* and a suspected upcoming album has yet to materialize. Thankfully, punk fans can look to the Maryland Film Festival in their time of need.

At the festival, there will be screenings of *Finding Joseph I*, a biopic dedicated to the enigmatic singer and frontman of Bad Brains, H.R. The film — which is meant to accompany a book of the same name — was directed by James Lathos for the Lesser Gods publishing company.

Bad Brains fans will be familiar with H.R.'s iconic onstage antics, but perhaps less acquainted with the man himself. To fans, H.R. and indeed Bad Brains are more of an idea than a group of people. Many associate them with their music, not their complex and — in H.R.'s case — occasionally difficult and strange personalities.

*The Little Hours* is a dark comedy starring Alison Brie, Dave Franco, Aubrey Plaza, Molly Shannon, and a number of other famous comedic actors.

It is an adaptation of Giovanni Boccaccio's *The Decameron*, and it features raunchy, wild nuns whose desperate need for excitement leads them down a path of ridiculous debauchery. And in case you're on the fence about seeing it, just know that the Catholic League called it "pure trash." Do with that what you will.

*Whose Streets?* is an incredibly relevant, incredibly pressing documentary following organizers and

protesters in the wake of the 2014 shooting of Michael Brown.

Focusing on seven people who worked together to craft a movement that extends far beyond buzzwords and news headlines, *Whose Streets?* uses things like video footage from cell phones and tweets to capture the intensity and growth of the Black Lives Matter movement.

There could be no better time for this film than now, and no better place to see it

than Baltimore.

The Maryland Film Festival will run from May 3rd to the 7th. Venues for screenings are clustered in the Station North area and local cafe Red Emma's will host filmmaker discussion panels.

This year's festival will also act as the grand reopening of the refurbished Parkway Theater, which closed in the 1970s but will now reopen thanks to renovation efforts which began in February of last year.

## Recommendations for Next Year's Spring Fair

### 1) Gorgoroth

In lieu of the petting zoo, animal lovers will enjoy the still-bleeding goatheads on stage.

### 2) Rainbow Bagels

Bring this over-priced food craze from the streets of NYC to Spring Fair.

### 3) Hologram of Beethoven

Spring Fair. Bringing back the classics.

### 4) Scott Disick DJ Set

Now Playing: the Fourth Horseman of the Douchepocalypse.

### 5) Bunjee Jumping Off of Gilman

Perfect for a school whose undergrads are known for their thrill-seeking tendencies.



PUBLIC DOMAIN

Gorillaz, a British band, performed at the Apollo Theater in 2008.



## ARTS &amp; ENTERTAINMENT

# Dystopian genre still holds relevance today



GAGE SKIDMORE/CC-BY-SA-2.0  
The Handmaid's Tale is based on Atwood's 1985 best-selling novel.

## HANDMAIDS, FROM B3

As some reviews have pointed out, a key aspect of this adaptation of *The Handmaid's Tale* is that it refuses to let its male players and bystanders off the hook. The Commander (Joseph Fiennes) can bend the rules and play Scrabble all he wants, but at the end of the day, he is still methodically raping Offred each time "The Ceremony" is performed.

Ultimately, he is using her as a means to an end: a baby. Nick (Max Minghella) can say he wishes he took Offred away rather than bringing her back to The Commander's residence where the Eyes (the government police force) await to interrogate her, but at the end of the day, he didn't, and that inaction matters. Apologies and hypotheticals don't amount to anything in Gilead.

In another great feat, we as viewers find a way, however difficult it might be, to sympathize with Serena Joy, The Commander's wife. Without forcing us to like her, *The Handmaid's Tale* allows us to recognize that she too is, in her own way, suffering. Her failure to conceive has wrought its own emotional trauma on her, as has seeing women like Offred have sex with her husband time and time again in hopes of providing him what she couldn't.

Her relationship with her husband has also been fundamentally changed. A chasm has been created between them and, in many respects, she has also been placed at a disadvantage by the new laws regulating the lives of women.

Without revealing any spoilers, I can tell you that *The Handmaid's Tale* is disturbing. If you're sleeping soundly at night with no worries for yourself or future generations of women, then brace yourself for a rude awakening. All of the acts women are subject to in both the show and Atwood's original novel are things that have actually happened over the course of history.

The narrative of *The Handmaid's Tale* functions as a cautionary tale. If we get complacent, if we allow those with power to abuse it, especially in regards to the regulation of women's rights, then we are allowing ourselves to continue down a treacherous path from which there's no going back.

In a bold guerilla marketing move, Hulu hired groups of women to dress

in the symbolic red dresses and white hats of the handmaids and walk the streets of Austin, Texas in silence throughout the SXSW festival. The streaming company also covered a wall on the High Line in New York City with 4,000 free copies of the TV tie-in edition of the novel, which they encouraged passersby to take.

Unlike Netflix, which releases its series a season at a time, Hulu is one of few digital platforms to hold onto the suspense-building tactic of releasing one episode per week. For a show like *The Handmaid's Tale*, which is often fairly grotesque and takes time to digest, this seems suitable, but only time will tell if fans are willing to commit to the show, keeping up with it Wednesday after Wednesday.

Interestingly, Atwood has already signed off on a season two, despite the fact that she never published a sequel to *The Handmaid's Tale*. She has reassured any concerned fans that she plans on being more heavily involved in the creative process behind the show in the future, once it departs from the source material. There's no telling where the show will go next.

# DJ Quik and JMSN's new releases live up to hype

By NIKITA SHTARKMAN  
For The News-Letter

About a year ago, west coast hip-hop legend DJ Quik — one of the definitive west coast rappers, standing alongside Snoop Dogg, Dr. Dre, Ice Cube and the N.W.A. ensemble — and fellow Compton rapper Problem released a short mixtape called *Rosecrans*. The EP was a fun, well produced work with a few west coast bangers and some great grooves.

Now, Quik and Problem have turned this small EP into a fully fleshed album. They successfully created something that is nostalgic but also polished and new. This is a project that should be listened to in cars with hydraulic suspensions or on street corners.

The best song on this project is probably the title track, "Rosecrans," which is reference to Rosecrans Avenue, a street in Los Angeles that has starred in its fair share of rap songs. On "Rosecrans," the Game, another west coast rapper, drops one of his classic verses, with a vicious voice and powerful flow. The hook is a beautiful performance by Candice Boyd, a falsetto, anthemic piece. The track also features one of the smoothest, most iconic west coast beats I've heard in awhile.

In fact, most of the beats on this project are incredible. DJ Quik, who was ahead of his time back when he first came onto the scene, is now one of the greatest producers in his field, having meshed the old, west coast style with new, polished production. The drum-breaks on every song sound fresh and crisp, while the synths and bass are reminiscent of an earlier sound but are somehow clearer. They sound simultaneously groovy and menacing.

Songs like "This Is Your Moment" is emblematic of what I'm talking about. It is the most seamless mix of modern

rapping and a groovy rhythm. The sounds are beautiful and simple.

Also, it is important to note that, unlike many west coast albums, this album never falls into a rut of consistently uncreative, similar sounding songs. Tracks like "Straight to the City" switch up the pace, from fast and hard, to smoother and more ballad-like.

Problem does his thing on this project. The journeyman Compton rapper has dropped a number of mixtapes of his own and has collaborated with more mainstream artists like Freddie Gibbs, Talib Kweli and DJ Destructo.

I have always considered Problem to be an underrated rapper. While he isn't much of a lyricist, his talent is a quick, fun flow with some funny punchlines and an engaging voice. It isn't even necessary to bring up DJ Quik, he raps as he always has, with his trademark high voice and quick delivery. Their verses sound great together.

This is a great project that brings even more focus on the blooming west coast scene. While this album hasn't had much of a commercial response, it deserves to be respected for what it is: a collaboration between an exciting young talent and one of the most respected OGs. It is also a love letter to a state, a city, a street. The project

ends with an uplifting chorus: "I just want to change things around here."

Fortunately, the last few weeks have been good ones as far as new releases go, and *Rosecrans* is not the only new album to look out for. R&B artist JMSN, who has appeared on tracks with the likes of Kendrick Lamar and Ab-Soul, released his fourth album, *Whatever Makes U Happy*, on April 28. JMSN is a contemporary torchholder for neo-soul. With his buttery smooth voice and the ability to effortlessly croon in falsetto, he creates some of the smoothest and purest R&B in recent memory.

*Whatever Makes U Happy* album is a sorrowful tread through the psyche of a sad man. The first song, "Drinkin'," sets the tone. The lyrics show the troubled thoughts of a man who struggles with addiction but doesn't accept that he has issues with drinking. "Please yourself / whatever makes you happy / do that shit," JMSN croons. He ends the song with, "I need to pour a shot." This is exactly the kind of atmosphere in which JMSN thrives — the everyday sorrows, the quotidian depression.

The instrumentation on *Whatever Makes U Happy* is beautiful. Pay special attention to the masterful, bouncing bass playing throughout all of the

songs. That is the aspect that defines this album as a callback to classic neo-soul, with Dilla-esque bounce. The song "Always Somethin'" is emblematic with a strong, almost spiritual like rhythm, a beating bass and some unique percussive sounds.

One of JMSN's weaknesses is his one-note singing style. On almost every track in his discography, he uses the same talking-singing combination, the same choral backing and the same wailing croon, which can easily get stale.

He doesn't fall into that trap on this project, though, as each song has a specific stylistic choice that defines it. For example, "Slide" has a slight country twinge, featuring violins and the swing from guitars and a more power-singer performance. However, it successfully maintains the regret-filled, sorrowful theme of the project.

This album is JMSN's strongest work. He compiles eight great tracks in a short, concise and punchy album. This is very much worth checking out, as his music is perfect for lonely nights on the couch or dark times in Brody. The kind of melancholy he can call up with his voice is hard to find; It is the kind of darkness that comes on moody days when the leaves are bluish and the sky seems to hold the sun back.



TONY NORKUS/CC-BY-SA-2.0

R&B artist JMSN continues to impress avid listeners with his latest project, *Whatever Makes U Happy*.

# Spring Fair concert caps off the academic year with a bang

## SPRING FAIR, FROM B3

billed for and then leaving the audience hanging.

However, I am happy to report that he played a full set, and it was good. Ferg ran through some of his most destructive songs — things like "Fuck Out My Face" and "Shabba" off of *Trap Lord* and "Uzi Gang" and "Hungry Ham" from *Always Strive and Prosper*, as well as a sampling of newer songs, including the latest A\$AP Mob track, "Wrong."

Basically, it was lit. Ferg was great, and the guy that he brought out (who I thought for a fleeting moment was Playboi Carti but was more likely another Mob member) was good as well.

Sadly, Hopkins students apparently have no concept of a mosh pit, because when the aforementioned and unidentified rapper called for the center to be opened up, the crowd did its best minnow impression and held together like their lives depended on it.

Super-glued crowd aside, Ferg's set was tre-

mendous for a genre where big concert shows can often be disappointing.

Happily, Ferg was the opening act, so I had time to leave the crowd and corral my very drunk friend before Steve Aoki started.

As a caveat, I am not a huge fan of EDM. I might even go so far as to say that I largely dislike it. Popular electronic music often seems to be more about the drugs that you take to

enjoy the concerts than it does about the actual music. This is a shame, because there are a lot of talented and passionate DJs in the business, but there are also a lot of people in the audience who just want to do molly.

Steve Aoki is certainly a talented guy and knows how to play a show, but as a consequence of my personal tastes, I wasn't

really feeling it.

Bias aside, Aoki was cool. Like I said, the dude puts on a great live show: The lights were amazing and the confetti was well-received. The sight of little pieces of paper floating around while you're seeing double and suffering from the early stages

of tinnitus is strangely comforting. It probably would have been even better had I been on the right drugs.

Unfortunately, by the time that Aoki was half-way through his set, all the beers that had replaced the water in my body were beginning to wear off and my world of substance-based complacency was collapsing around me.

As a consequence of this I gave up and went home before the DJ had finished, so the last twenty minutes of the show are courtesy of sec-

ond-hand accounts and Snapchat.

Fortunately, it seems as though everything continued as normal: lights, heavy bass and shirtless Aoki acting as both the artist and the hypeman. From what I've heard, it was amazing and, importantly, someone got caked.

Apparently, Aoki came up with the idea as a way to promote a song ("Turn Up the Volume" by Autoerotique) the video for which featured people getting absolutely demolished by cakes to the face. In slow motion.

In hindsight, I feel sort of bad about leaving before Aoki's set had finished. The more I read about the guy the more I like him. Apparently, he has punk origins and said in a 2014 interview with Thump that he'd do mash-ups of Biggie and hardcore songs. It probably sounded like Rage Against the Machine but even more insane, and what's not to love about that?

Regardless, Hopkins clearly enjoyed hosting him and Ferg, and the

two clearly enjoyed each other's company judging by the truly amazing photo that Ferg posted on his Instagram. So, all in all, great concert. Well done, Spring Fair.

As an aside, it turns out that the rapper that Ferg brought out was Marty Baller, who is featured on "Uzi Gang." Ferg has apparently been grooming Marty for some time now. The young Harlem rapper recently released tracks featuring Migos and Rich the Kid. I considered going back and editing that earlier paragraph to reflect this revelation, but I liked that sentence so I'm just going to do this.

I would tell you where Ferg and Aoki are touring but, frankly, none of us could afford tickets, and you have Google too.

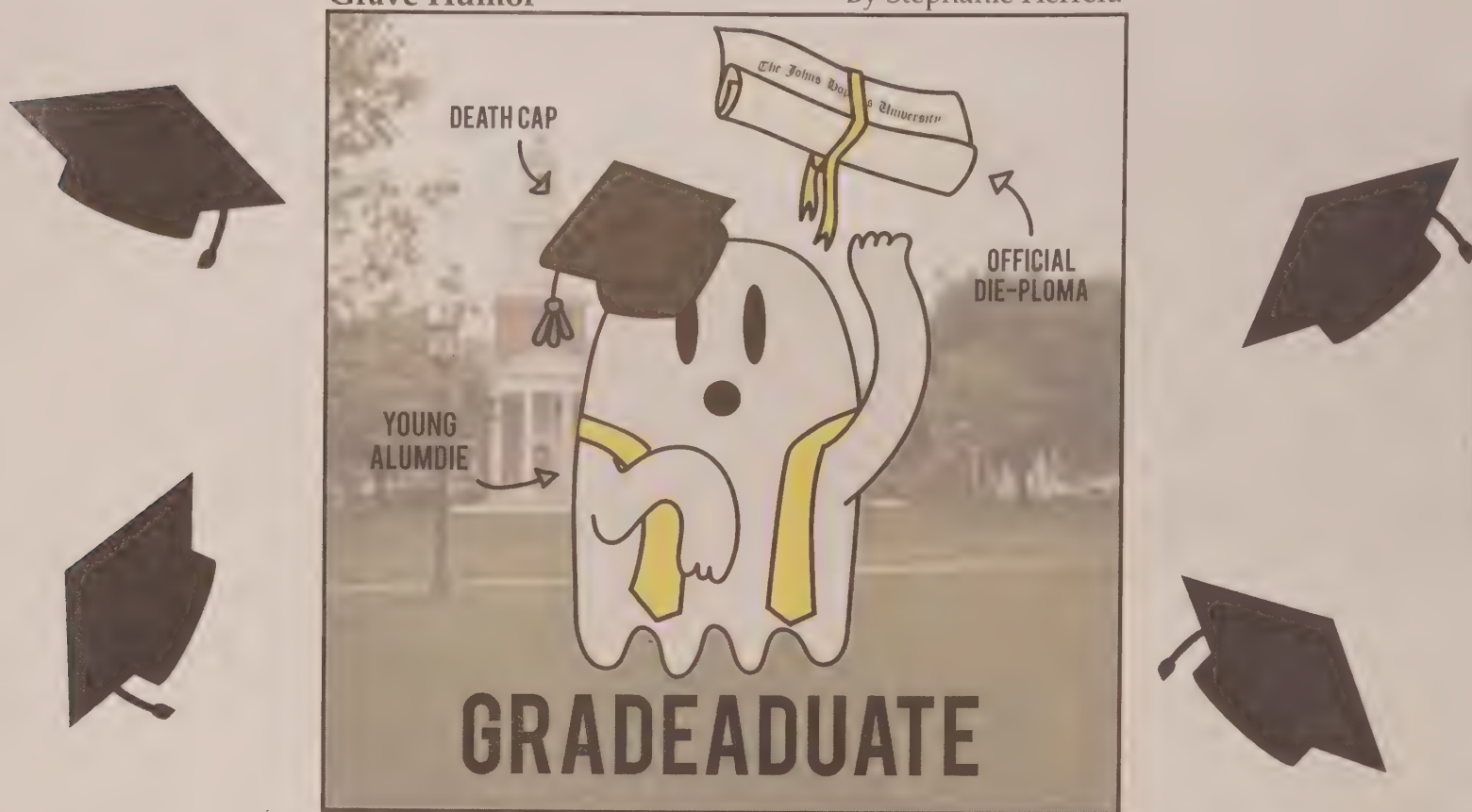
Finally, if you disagree with my comments about EDM, feel free to attack me via the internet or, if you see me walking around campus, in real life. Just drop the bass before you hit me so I know why you're doing it in the first place.



# CARTOONS, ETC.

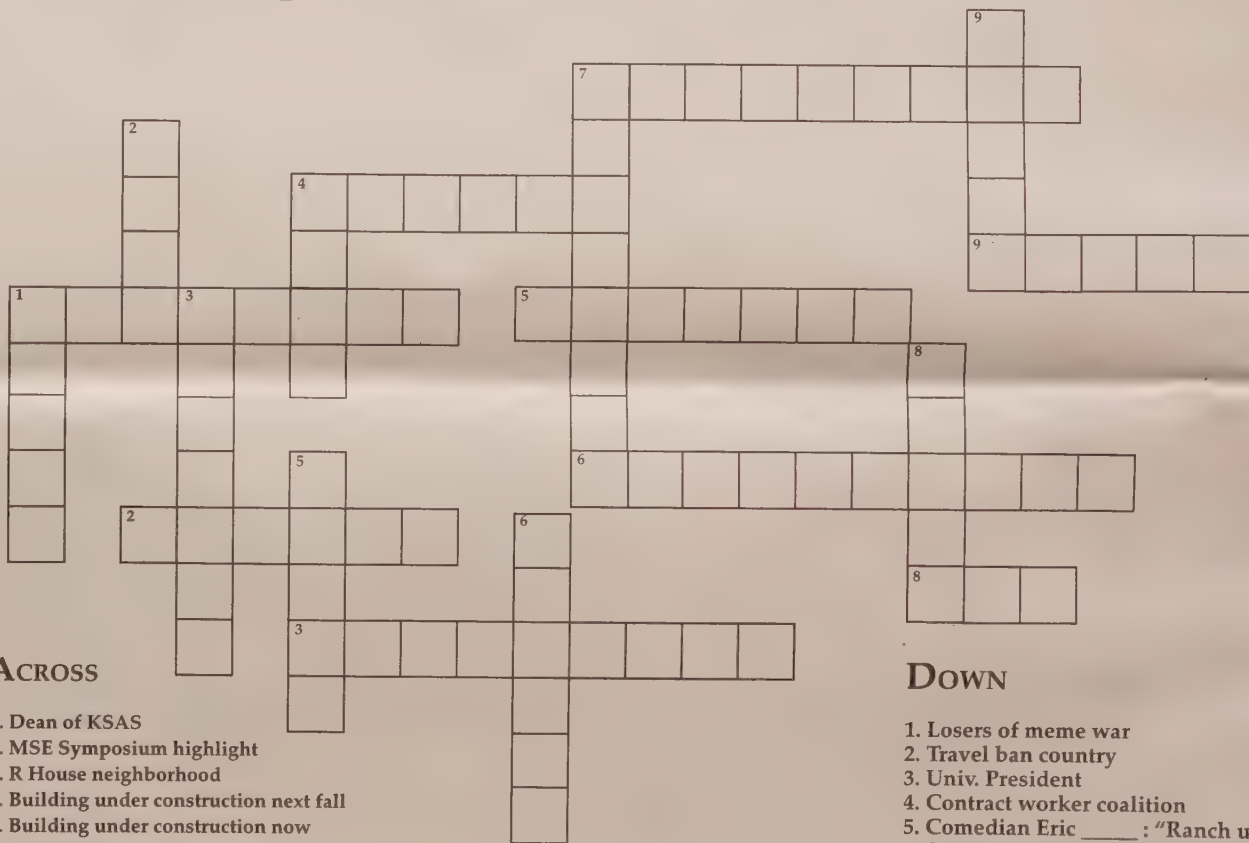
Grave Humor

By Stephanie Herrera



By Rollin "In The Deep" Hu

## 2016-2017 Hopkins News in Review: Crossword



### ACROSS

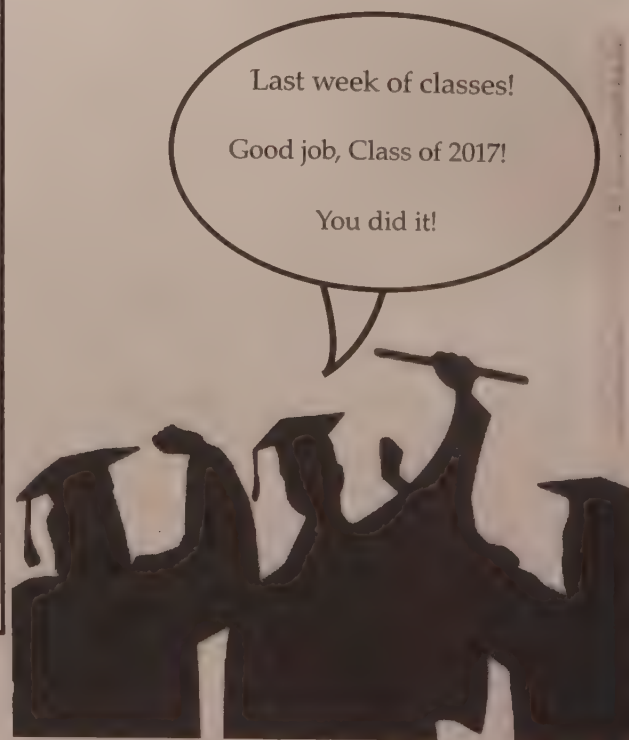
1. Dean of KSAS
2. MSE Symposium highlight
3. R House neighborhood
4. Building under construction next fall
5. Building under construction now
6. Fossil fuel \_\_\_\_\_
7. Charm City
8. New Horizons will lead the \_\_\_\_\_
9. FAS presents: \_\_\_\_\_ Riot

### DOWN

1. Losers of meme war
2. Travel ban country
3. Univ. President
4. Contract worker coalition
5. Comedian Eric \_\_\_\_\_: "Ranch up!"
6. Save the Humanities \_\_\_\_\_!
7. Creator of a "hostile environment"
8. My lost hopes and dreams
9. "You're fired!"

## Senioritis

By Tony Street





# SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

## Frog slime has potential to cure flu viruses Asian-American breast cancer rate increases



PUBLIC DOMAIN

The *Hydrophylax bahuvistara* frog species has protective slime that can explode flu viruses in mice.

By ANNA CHEN  
For *The News-Letter*

Influenza, or the flu, kills tens of thousands of people every year. Even with the rapidly evolving medical and pharmaceutical industries, scientists have not been able to develop a complete cure for the flu.

Researchers are continuously working to design novel drugs from the ground up in order

to attack the flu virus. The process, however, is slow and often difficult. There are many different strains of the virus, each with the ability to mutate itself and become immune to the anti-virus drugs being developed by scientists.

Josh Jacob, associate professor at the Emory University School of Medicine's Department of Microbiology and Immunology, thinks he has

found a promising solution. The details of his findings have been published in the journal *Immunity*.

In a study involving a frog species called *Hydrophylax bahuvistara*, which was discovered recently in India, Jacob found that its protective slime bursts flu viruses in mice models. When introduced into the mice's bodies through their nasal passageways, the peptides found in the mucus on the frog's skin were shown to cure the mice of fatal doses of the human flu virus.

The *H. bahuvistara* secretes this compound from its skin in order to protect it from bacterial and fungal infections. Jacob notes that it is strange that this compound, produced by the frog, can fight the human flu, which does not

infect frogs in their natural environment.

Jacob thinks it is a coincidence and that the peptide must have evolutionary significance in killing other pathogens that are harmful to the frog. It just so happens that it is effective in destroying flu viruses without negatively affecting the infected organism's healthy tissues.

He originally found the anti-bacterial and anti-fungal properties of the frog's mucus fascinating and decided to test them on viruses as well. This is when he discovered the mucus' unique properties. Because the peptides are easily synthesized in the lab, he was able to test them one at a time against several strains of influenza.

This specific peptide in the *H. bahuvistara*'s mucus, which Jacob named "urumin" after a special type of Indian sword, works against the H1 influenza virus. This virus is responsible for H1N1 (also known as swine flu), which caused a sweeping epidemic in 2009 and is now circulating as part of the seasonal flu. However, the peptide is ineffective against some other flu strains, such as the H3N2 flu and influenza B viruses that have also been a part of the seasonal flu this year.

Urumin works by attacking a part of the flu virus called hemagglutinin. In this study, Jacob found that this makes

SEE FLU, PAGE B9

By CATHY NIE  
For *The News-Letter*

In a 2017 study, researchers at the Cancer Prevention Institute of California (CPIC) concluded that Asian Americans exhibit higher rates of breast cancer than other minorities. The study was conducted among women from seven different Asian-American ethnic groups in California from 1988 to 2013.

The study looked at the following ethnic groups: Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Filipino, Vietnamese, South Asians (Indians and Pakistanis) and Southeast Asians (Cambodians, Laotians, Hmong and Thai). Among those included in the study, researchers noted that women from the South Asian, Vietnamese and Southeast Asian groups showed the highest rates of breast cancer.

In an interview with the National Broadcasting Company (NBC), CPIC Research Scientist Scarlett Lin Gomez said that the groups with the highest rates of breast cancer also happen to have recently immigrated to the U.S.

Notably, this pattern seems to mirror the trend of Japanese Americans developing breast cancer at higher rates in the 1970s and 1980s. For Japanese Americans,

breast cancer rates seem to have stabilized and now exhibit a similar pattern to breast cancer trends in non-Hispanic white women.

CPIC researchers also hypothesized that cultural behaviors could play a role in detecting breast cancer in its earlier stages and decreasing the incidence of breast cancer among Asian Americans. They noted that the groups that exhibited the highest breast cancer development rates are the same groups that tend to have their breast cancer diagnosed in the latest stages.

"[The] stigma around breast cancer is still so prevalent in the Asian-American community. Women may not talk about it and then not receive the support that they need," San Francisco State University Professor Grace Yoo said in an interview with NBC.

The act of Asian-American women discussing their breast cancer struggles and experiences with each other can be a form of support and a way to spread awareness to younger generations.

The CPIC study also showed that Asian-American women may be more prone to more aggressive types of breast cancer. Specifically, cancer caused by

SEE CANCER, PAGE B

## Dinosaur proteins offer clues to the genetic past

By ELAINE CHIAO  
Staff Writer

Throughout history biological research has often focused on the study of DNA. The scientific community has, at times, neglected a category of macromolecules that play a crucial role in regulating genetic inheritance: proteins.

Mary Schweitzer, a professor of biology at North Carolina State University, and her team made their discovery by examining the remnants of a *Tyrannosaurus rex* bone.

Schweitzer's team was able to extract proteins from dinosaur fossils that are estimated to be 80 million years old. These proteins are encoded by DNA and possess all the quintessential functions needed to carry out and maintain cell growth.

"When you think about it, it is the message of DNA — the proteins — that are actually the stuff on which natural selection works. The sequenc-

es of proteins can be used to generate 'family trees' of organisms, just like DNA," Schweitzer said in a press release. "But modifications to proteins, which are not found in DNA and can't be reliably predicted from DNA sequence alone, can tell us how a protein functioned, because the function of a protein is determined by its 3D structure."

Schweitzer supports her claim using collagen, the most abundant protein found in mammals, as an example. It is also the main structural protein present in the extracellular space of various connective tissues within animal bodies.

Collagen consists of a proline amino acid with an extra hydroxide group attached to it. This unique chemical structure makes it almost impossible to be misidentified. From an evolutionary standpoint, DNA changes almost never occur without the aid of proteins. Therefore, it is a

SEE DINOSAUR, PAGE B9



SSR ITS4U/CC-BY-SA-2.0

The researchers extracted proteins from *Tyrannosaurus rex* bones.

## Glass waste may be recycled as lithium-ion batteries

By ISAAC CHEN  
For *The News-Letter*

Each year tons of non-recycled glass waste ends up in landfills, which adds a possibly unnecessary burden in the waste disposal process. Some argue that a solution to this issue is needed to improve the sustainability of our environment.

In a study published on April 19 in *Scientific Reports*, Changling Li, a graduate student at University of California, Riverside (UCR)'s Bourns College of Engineering, and his colleagues found a possible solution. They developed a way to use silicon, derived from glass waste, to create anode material for lithium-ion batteries.

Graphite based anodes used in common batteries have a low theoretical capacity of 372 mAh/g. In comparison, silicon has a high theoretical capacity, of 3572 mAh/g, and a low discharge potential. These characteristics make silicon a great candidate for energy storage in batteries.

The researchers claim that batteries with silicon anodes can lead to a 34 percent increase in the total battery capacity compared to batteries with graphite anodes.

However, silicon anodes do carry their own set of risks. They can become unstable when they react with the lithium cathode. This reaction can then cause an unstable pattern of expansion

and contraction of the anode.

As a potential solution to this instability, the research team proposed downsizing the silicon to nanoparticles. Silicon nanoparticles have shown to be effective in preventing the anode structure from cracking.

They also plan to coat the silicon with carbon. The carbon coating can act as a buffer when the silicon expands.

Li and his colleagues adopted a method called "magnesium reduction" in combination with sodium chloride to create nanostructured silicon. Sodium chloride is essential during this process because previous research has shown that it can absorb large amounts of heat generated from an exothermic reaction.

It prevents the heat created by the reaction from surpassing silicon's melting point, thus maintaining silicon's nanostructure.

This novel process would be cheap and practical for mass production compared to known techniques that require expensive raw material and toxic acids.

Creating a silicon



PUBLIC DOMAIN

Researchers hope to give glass waste a new use as anodes for lithium batteries.

based anode using glass waste involves three procedures.

First, the glass must be crushed and grinded so that it is only nanometers in scale. Second, sodium chloride is mixed with the silicon dioxide powder which will later undergo the magnesium reduction process to produce silicon nanoparticles. Finally, the silicon nanoparticles are coated with carbon.

The results of the team's work show that the glass derived silicon with carbon coating exhibits a capacity of approximately 1420 mAh/g at C/2 after 400 cycles, suggesting good stability and a higher energy density.

Li explained some of the process behind their discovery.

"We started with a waste product that was

headed for the landfill and created batteries that stored more energy, charged faster, and were more stable than commercial coin cell batteries," Li said, according to *Science Daily*. "Hence, we have very promising candidates for next-generation lithium-ion batteries."

The research team believes that their battery can be used in electric vehicles or hybrid electric vehicles in the future. Their work demonstrates an environmentally friendly way of converting waste.

According to UCR Today, this study is part of a series of other projects to create a more sustainable environment and is one of the first studies to approach sustainability by creating lithium-ion battery anodes from environmentally friendly materials.



## SCIENCE &amp; TECHNOLOGY

## Quantum computing utilizes 3D crystals



2D liquid crystals are commonly used in smart phone and television display screens.

By WILLIAM XIE  
For The News-Letter

Researchers at the Institute for Quantum Information and Matter at the California Institute of Technology (Caltech) recently discovered a new state of matter, the 3D quantum liquid crystal.

"We have detected the existence of a fundamentally new state of matter that can be regarded as a quantum analog of a liquid crystal," David Hsieh, assistant professor of physics at Caltech, said in a press release.

Liquid crystals flow like a liquid but are structurally oriented like a solid. Quantum liquid crystals contain electrons that act nematic, or arrange themselves in a parallel manner.

Quantum liquid crystals

are not a foreign concept. 2D quantum liquid crystals were first discovered in 1999 by a Caltech professor. As the name suggests, 2D quantum liquid crystals flow in a flat plane, moving in one particular direction. 2D quantum crystals can also be found in high-temperature superconductors.

"Electrons living in this flatland collectively decide to flow preferentially along the x-axis rather than the y-axis even though there's nothing to distinguish one direction from the other," John Harter, a postdoctoral researcher at the Caltech lab, said in a press release.

3D quantum crystals have more states. They can move along three axes, in a forward or backward motion. If

using second harmonic optical anisotropy measurements. In fact, researchers were originally interested in studying the atomic structure of Cd<sub>2</sub>Re<sub>2</sub>O<sub>7</sub> using second harmonic optical anisotropy and encountered results inexplicable using solely the concept of a 2D quantum liquid crystal.

Like liquid crystals, the new phase spontaneously breaks rotational symmetry. Their paper, which was published in *Science*, described how the researchers found that there was a spin-orbit coupling which suggested that the material had a 3D quantum nature.

According to *Science Daily*, Harter was at first surprised by their findings and questioned their results. They were able to connect the dots

a current is run through the material, the motion of the electrons yields a different magnetic strength and magnetic orientation.

The 3D quantum liquid crystal was found, surprisingly, in the metallic pyrochlore Cd<sub>2</sub>Re<sub>2</sub>O<sub>7</sub>

when they accounted for the concept of 3D quantum liquid crystals, which was developed by Liang Fu, a physics professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Liquid crystals can be found in nature but they can also be created artificially. Liquid crystal displays are commonly found in smartphones, televisions and other display screens.

The researchers question whether the 3D quantum liquid crystals could be implemented in a computer chip.

The nature of the electrons in the 3D quantum liquid crystals may be suitable for advancement in quantum computing, which uses quantum states to increase operating speed. Researchers' theoretical models show that 3D quantum liquid crystals can have topological superconducting phases.

"3D quantum liquid crystals could be the precursors to topological superconductors we've been looking for," said Hsieh in a press release.

Topological superconductors can stabilize the uncertain nature of quantum computing. Creating topological superconductors using the 3D quantum liquid crystals can open a new field in quantum computing.

## Protein reverses eye disorder symptoms

By RACHEL HUANG  
For The News-Letter

Researchers at the University of California San Diego (UCSD) School of Medicine and the Shiley Eye Institute have collaborated with researchers in China to discover a way to reverse the effects of retinitis pigmentosa (RP) in mice.

RP is a chronic inherited genetic eye disorder caused by mutations in more than 60 genes that eventually lead to permanent blindness. It affects about one in every 4,000 people worldwide and about 100,000 people in America.

Within eyes there are two different types of photoreceptors: rods and cones.

Rods are responsible for scotopic vision, or vision in the dark. They also handle peripheral vision and as a result, they do produce dull images.

Cones, on the other hand, are responsible for photopic vision, or colored vision. They have the ability to detect light at varying wavelengths and produce sharp images. Rods and cones lie along the retina in the back of the eye.

RP causes degeneration in rods and cones. This affects the optic nerve's ability to convert light into electrical signals to send to the brain for processing.

In the early stages, the rod cells degenerate, making it hard to see in the dark. This gradually produces a loss of peripheral vision. As the disorder progresses, those with RP begin to notice aversive changes in their cone cells. The process eventually leads to permanent blindness.

Dr. Kang Zhang, professor of ophthalmology at UCSD, and his team used CRISPR/Cas9 to deactivate a master switch gene

called Nrl and a downstream transcription factor called Nr2e3. By manipulating the activation of these genes, Zhang is able to program rod cells to become cone cells.

"Cone cells are less vulnerable to the genetic mutations that cause RP," Zhang said in a press release. "Our strategy was to use gene therapy to make the underlying mutations irrelevant, resulting in the preservation of tissue and vision."

CRISPR/Cas9 stands for "clustered regularly interspaced short palindromic repeats" and is known to be a powerful tool in genetic technology because it allows researchers

to edit the genome by changing parts of the DNA sequence.

CRISPR/Cas9 is made up of two molecules: the enzyme Cas9 and gRNA, or guide RNA. The function of the gRNA is to find the specific location to be edited and bind to

that sequence in the DNA.

Cas9 then comes along to cut the strands to create an opening for the DNA sequence to be altered. gRNA begins to add the complementary bases to the altered DNA sequence.

Zhang and his team's experiment on mice affected by RP showed improvements in their rod and cone receptors. A similar study done by the National Eye Institute at the National Institutes of Health and presented similar results.

"Human clinical trials could be planned soon after completion of preclinical study. There is no treatment for RP so the need is great and pressing," Zhang said, according to *Science Daily*. "In addition, our approach of reprogramming mutation-sensitive cells to mutation-resistant cells may have broader application to other human diseases, including cancer."

## Preterm birth prevention drug proves ineffective

By JOAN YEA  
Senior Staff Writer

Makena is the only drug to date that has been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for preventing recurrent preterm births. Makena's chemical compound name is 17-alpha-hydroxyprogesterone caproate (17P) and it was approved by the FDA in 2011.

Since then, the drug was endorsed for widespread use by both the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine.

More recently, in January 2017, the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine repeated its recommendation of 17P in light of the under-utilization of what is deemed an effective drug.

However, a study conducted by researchers at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, has found that the use of 17P had hardly any benefit for expecting mothers with prior preterm births.

Published in the March 2017 issue of the *American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology*, the study details the results of a four year trial from January 2012 to March 2016, during which 430 women with prior preterm births were injected with 17P.

Beginning from 16 to 20 weeks of gestation, pregnant women involved in the study received weekly injections at the Parkland Memorial Hospital in Dallas, Texas.

Having noted the typical rate of 16.8 percent recurrent preterm births at the Parkland Hospital, the researchers evaluated the clinical effectiveness

of 17P in reducing the recurrence of premature births.

To compare the premature birth rates, the preterm birth profiles of the study's participants were matched to similar profiles in the historical cohort.

Based on the mother's race, body mass index and pregnancy history, 1,290 mothers in the historical control were matched to 430 research participants.

Even after controlling for these demographic factors, 17P did not significantly reduce the rate of recurrent preterm births. In fact, the overall rate of recurrence was higher for the study group treated with 17P at 25 percent.

Researchers observed higher or similar recurrence rates in the 17P study group compared to the historical control for all of the specific pregnancy histories.

For instance, for mothers with one prior preterm birth, the recurrence rate was 31 percent in the 17P study group compared to 18 percent in the historical control.

Moreover, recurrence rates among mothers with three or more preterm births were not statistically different for the 17P group and the historical cohort, which were at 44 percent and 45 percent respectively.

Upon the analysis of blood draws, researchers also discovered that 13.4 percent of the pregnant women treated with 17P were diagnosed with gestational diabetes in contrast to the eight percent of women in the historical control. Researchers found 17P is ineffective at best and at worst, linked to a higher probability of birth complications.

According to the researchers, Makena (17P) was able to receive an accelerated approval from

the FDA mostly on the basis of a 2003 study led by Paul J. Meis, a retired professor of obstetrics and gynecology-maternal/fetal medicine at Wake Forest University.

However, questions have been raised following the paper's publication.

The 2003 study, though completed in two phases, did not include the results of the first phase, which were later reported to have a 36 percent preterm birth recurrence rate in the control group.

On the other hand, the recurrence rate in the control group for the second phase of the study was much higher at 55 percent, leading to speculation that 17P only appeared to be effective because it was compared to an unexpectedly high rate in the control group.

Furthermore, the mechanisms of progestogens, such as 17P, are not well understood. According to researchers, while progestogens were once thought of as anti-inflammatory agents at the uterine cervix, they have more recently been found to be unrelated to the uterine health.



17P drugs is marketed as being able to reduce pre-term births.

## Breast cancer rate in Asian Americans rising

CANCER, FROM B7 mutations in the human epidermal growth factor receptor 2 (HER2), which helps promote cell growth, affected the same groups that exhibited the highest rates of breast cancer more than it affected non-Hispanic white women.

According to the 2012 study, "The HER2 Receptor in Breast Cancer: Pathophysiology, Clinical Use, and New Advances in Therapy," conducted by researchers at Emory University, mutation of HER2 occurs in approximately 15-30 percent of breast cancer and is also associated with uterine cancer.

Thanks to the CPIC study, doctors may also become more aware of the increased health risks Asian American women face compared to their non-Asian counterparts.

San Francisco State University professor Mihnung Le described her own sister's experiences

with breast cancer in an interview for NBC. She was diagnosed with late stage breast cancer only after it was too late.

"Her doctor assured her that Asian women don't get breast cancer," Le said to NBC.

Unfortunately, when she was diagnosed her cancer had metastasized and travelled through her lymph nodes.

As Asian-American communities become more aware of the severity of breast cancer, there have been increased efforts for Asian-American women to receive earlier diagnostic treatment and become more informed of medical resources available to them.

Gomez also notes in the study that scientists should investigate other risk factors that affect Asian-American women, such as "early-life exposures" and "genetic susceptibility" to better understand the cancer risks they face.



## Sugar intake heightens stroke, dementia risk

By SHERRY SIMKOVIC  
Staff Writer

Neurologists at Boston University recently discovered a direct relationship between drinking sugary drinks like soda and an increased risk for stroke and dementia.

Each year 795,000 people experience a stroke, making it the leading cause of long-term disability and the fifth leading cause of death in the United States. A stroke occurs when blood flow to the brain is cut off and brain cells begin to die because they are deprived of oxygen.

The National Stroke Association lists several factors that can cause a stroke and recommends eating a healthy diet consisting of a variety of vegetables, fruits and grains. They also recommend limiting saturated fats, trans fats and added sugars. In fact, they recommend consuming fewer than 10 percent of calories per day from added sugars.

Currently, 47.5 million people suffer from dementia across the globe. Each year there are 7.7 million new cases. Dementia describes a group of symptoms that affect memory, thinking and social abilities severely enough to interfere with daily functioning.

Alzheimer's disease is the most common cause of progressive dementia in older adults, affecting 60 to 70 percent of the population worldwide. A diet of reduced sugars and fat, with lots of fruits, vegetables and whole grains has been shown to reduce the risk of Alzheimer's.

In the past, research has shown that the development of stroke and dementia are both linked to the onset of atherosclerosis and type 2 diabetes mellitus, both of which are caused by diets high in sugars.

The neurologists at Boston University questioned if eating more sugar or drinking more sugary sodas increased a patient's risk for stroke or dementia. Matthew Pase, a fellow in the Department of Neurology at the Boston University School of Medicine (BUSM), and his team tested their hypothesis on patients from the Offspring Cohort of the Framingham Heart Study (FHS) which is under the umbrella of the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute.

Started in 1948, the founders of the FHS aimed to identify risk factors for heart disease by following a group of patients over a long period of time who had not yet developed symptoms of cardiovascular disease, or suffered a heart attack or a stroke. To do so, the researchers at the FHS recruited 5,209 men and women between the ages of 30 and 62 from the town of Framingham, Mass.

This group of men and women is referred to as the Original Cohort. Once enrolled in the study, the scientists began conducting extensive physical exams and lifestyle interviews on the patients, looking for

common patterns related to heart disease development. Participants have since returned every two years to update their health information.

In the 1970s, the research team enrolled 5,124 of the original participant's adult children and their spouses to participate in the study as well. This second group is known as the Offspring Cohort.

Focusing on 2,888 participants from the Offspring Cohort who were all over 45 years old, the research team looked at their risk for stroke. Over the course of three examinations, between the years of 1991-1995, 1995-1998 and 1998-2001, participants were asked to fill out a food-frequency questionnaire, a checklist of foods and drinks which had a section that asked how often someone ate or drank something over a given period of time. Pase described why they used sugary

drinks in their study in an article by *Science Daily*.

"It's difficult to measure overall sugar intake in the diet, so we used sugary beverages as a proxy," Pase said.

Using

information from each visit, the research team evaluated how often a patient ate sugar or drank a sugary drink by averaging the patient's answers. Over the course of 10 years the team observed 97 strokes. Their data revealed that compared to people who eat or drink no additional sugar during the day, people who do are 2.96 times more likely to have a stroke.

The researchers used 1,484 patients above the age of 60 to conduct a similar test on dementia. They team observed 81 cases of dementia and discovered that patients who drink eat or drink more sugar are 2.89 times as likely to develop Alzheimer's. Pase and his group also performed a second follow-up study that focused exclusively on Alzheimer's.

In this study, the team looked at how sugary drinks caused Alzheimer's by using an MRI scanner and cognitive testing in about 4,000 people enrolled in the FHS Offspring and Third-Generation cohorts, who the grandchildren of the Original Cohort.

Focusing on people in the "high intake" group who drank more than two sugary drinks a day, they found multiple signs of accelerated brain aging, including smaller overall brain volume, poorer episodic memory and a shrunken hippocampus, all risk factors for early-stage Alzheimer's disease.

BUSM neurology professor Sudha Seshadri summarized their findings in an article by *Science Daily*.

"These studies are not the be-all and end-all, but it's strong data and a very strong suggestion," Seshadri said. "It looks like there is not very much of an upside to having sugary drinks, and substituting the sugar with artificial sweeteners doesn't seem to help."

## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

# Umbilical cord protein increases brain power

By CINDY JIANG  
For The News-Letter

It has been a recent trend for scientists to research the use of body parts from younger organisms to improve the functions of their older counterparts. Cells in older organisms are already specialized as opposed to cells from younger organisms. The An example of this trend is the recent stem cell craze.

Following this trend, researchers are now exploring compounds that are largely concentrated in babies but are scarcely found in adults.

A team of researchers from Stanford University and Alkahest are now looking at a protein in the human umbilical cord called TIMP2. TIMP2 has shown promising results in rejuvenating the brains of aged mice.

However, the results of this study, might have been influenced by the fact that the mice were genetically engineered. Additionally, scientists understand little of the compound's origin, why there is a gradual decrease in its production as one gets older and the way it operates in the brain.

Despite such uncertainty, the results of the study nevertheless demonstrated an improvement in the speed and quality of learning in aged mice.

The beginning of this finding dates back to 2014, when Stanford professor

of neurology Tony Wyss-Coray, along with colleagues, discovered a boost in the muscle strength and memory of aged mice after receiving blood transfusions from younger mice.

Drawing on their previous experiment, Wyss-Coray's team infusing a blood serum obtained from human umbilical cords into the genetically engineered mice.

The infusion produced mice that had improved cognitive function. They were able to learn faster, and there was an increase in the number of their brain cells. The researchers' article published in *Nature* described their findings.

"Here we show that human cord plasma treatment revitalizes the hippocampus and improves cognitive function in aged mice," the article read.

In an effort to pinpoint the specific component of the serum that was responsible for this change in the aged mice, the blood was screened for compounds that are rich in baby blood but not in adult blood.



PUBLIC DOMAIN

Researchers have found that umbilical cord protein TIMP2 increases brain function in mice.

"We have now measured well over 1,000 different factors in blood and roughly one third of those change between young people and old people," Wyss-Coray said in an interview with NBC.

Among the compounds screened, the team decided to focus on TIMP2 first. However, upon dissection, the team found that there were no physical alterations of the brain even though there was an improvement in speed and quality of learning.

From this they concluded that TIMP2 must not be acting alone but rather in conjunction with several other compounds in the human blood plasma. Wyss-Coray, in an interview with NBC, elaborated this point.

"We just saw that TIMP2 decreases in blood very quickly from age 0 to 20 — a 50 percent

drop. It's possible that in the brain, the levels are actually high and they decline much slower," he said. "It's regulating a lot of different biological processes. Because it has broad effects, we may actually have a more powerful factor."

The researchers aim to develop a cocktail of compounds that can rejuvenate the body without any negative factors, but the work is still in its early stages. Wyss-Coray says that his team will now study the effect of TIMP2 in animals bred to imitate human diseases like Alzheimer's.

"We will test this in models of neurodegeneration and understand how it works," he said to NBC. "Commercially, the company is trying to first validate the findings that we have found in the lab and then see if this is a treatment we can go forward with."

## Dinosaur protein provides insight into evolution

DINOSAUR, FROM B7

more practical approach to instead study the changes in protein and scientifically deduce how it correlates to the evolution of DNA over time.

In addition, studying proteins can reveal information about specific variables such as the age of the sample and the environmental factors that the sample has been exposed to. Researchers are also searching for clues as to why certain proteins degrade easily while others can remain intact for millions of years.

The research team has discovered that some

types of proteins are durable and easier to preserve than DNA, thus making them more convenient targets for investigation. Schweitzer collected information through extracting samples from old dinosaur bones.

After repeatedly proving that such a protein extraction can be successfully performed, Schweitzer's team is now switching gears toward developing more efficient methods of detecting proteins without damaging their structural compositions.

The research at this point heavily relies on

mass spectrometry, which is not an ideal technique because protein specimen are often damaged during the process.

The team's second goal is to use these proteins to delve into the evolutionary, physiological and reproductive aspects of the organism. For example, they aim to learn more about the reasoning behind why certain proteins could stand the test of time and remain structurally intact while others can't.

Schweitzer has recently presented her team's findings at the

Experimental Biology 2017 meeting, which took place in Chicago from April 22 to 26.

The meeting involves representatives from the American Association of Anatomists, and it is an annual gathering for scientists in the field to share and spread their work.

Schweitzer believes that studying dinosaur proteins not only sheds light on the biological context in the era in which dinosaurs roamed the planet, but also on information that suggests scientific promise in the future.

## Researchers use frog slime against mutant viruses

FLU, FROM B7

urumin especially effective against flu viruses that have mutated to resist the effect of other types of antiviral drugs that kill the viruses at other points.

Jacob further tested this potential by attempt-

ing to produce mutant viruses that cannot be killed by urumin, but he was unable to succeed, proving the peptide's potency.

"Urumin therefore has the potential to contribute to first-line anti-viral treatments during influ-

enza outbreaks," Jacob's research team writes in their paper.

Jacob thinks that compounds found in the protective secretions of other species of frogs are bound to contain cures for a multitude of different viruses.

He speaks of not only the other flu strains, but also of HIV, hepatitis, Zika and Ebola. Jacob is optimistic about the prospects.

"It's just a matter of searching and finding them," he said to NBC.

However, he admits that even after discovering these compounds in other species of frogs, researchers would be faced with more hardships.

They would have to find frog slime secretions that don't harm human tissue and also come up

with a way to systematically deliver the drug. Most drugs that rely on peptides are administered intravenously or by injecting them directly into the veins.

This is not convenient and requires a medical professional to facilitate the process, so it would not be practical as an everyday treatment. Jacob hopes to develop an easily accessible drug that people can take as a pill.

Jacob recognizes the difficulty in developing a drug thinks he has found a path toward an eventual solution. The best drugs are found in nature, he said to NBC.

"The [drugs] in nature have evolved over millions of years and perfected themselves by trial and error. These work really, really well," he said.



PUBLIC DOMAIN

Researchers believe that frog slime can combat specific flu viruses.



SPORTS

# M. Tennis defeats Garnet for top seed

By ESTHER HONG  
Sports Editor

The two remaining undefeated Centennial Conference men's tennis teams battled for the top seed this past Saturday. The 17th-ranked Blue Jays came out on top in the matchup against the Swarthmore College Garnet to secure hosting privileges for the Conference Tournament. The final score of Saturday's match was 7-2.

"Winning that match allows us to host the Conference Championships, so that is a big advantage," freshman Joseph Cartledge said. "It also gives us a lot of confidence moving forward... we can take care of business when it counts."

The Blue Jays earned victories in all of their doubles matches. Cartledge teamed up with senior Jeremy Dubin and started the Jays' sweep with a memorable 9-8 (3) win against the Garnet's Mark Fallati and Josh Powell. Senior Emerson Walsh and junior Justin Kang won 8-4 at second, and junior David Perez and sophomore Scott Thygesen won 8-6 at third.

"Swarthmore is our toughest in-Conference opponent, so it was important to get off to a good start. We swept doubles by pulling out a couple close matches, and from there, we just stayed aggressive and were able to win fairly comfortably," Cartledge said.

During individual play, the Garnet was able to get onto the scoreboard when Thygesen was forced to retire, handing the victory to Swarthmore's John Larkin. Despite the loss, Hopkins stayed on top with the help of Walsh's 6-3, 6-2 victory against the Garnet's sophomore Simon Vernier to give the Blue Jays a 4-1 lead.

Following Walsh's performance, freshman Aaron Carey, Dubin and Perez all defeated their individual opponents, advancing the lead to 7-1.

"The standout play is probably [Perez] hitting a drop-shot winner on set point to win the set 7-6," Cartledge said.

The Garnet was able to grab the last point of the day, but despite having home-court advantage, the match had been decided early on.

"Our mindset was to be aggressive early and take a lead after doubles and not let them really have a chance to get into the match," Cartledge said. "There was a big crowd, and they were at home, so we knew that if we allowed them any foothold

in the match, the crowd could become a factor, and the players would be extremely pumped up."

After Saturday's win, Hopkins improves their all-time record against the Garnet to 19-26, having won 17 of the 18 most recent face-offs.

The Blue Jays once again finish the regular season with an undefeated Conference record for the 11th time in the past 13 seasons. Under head coach Chuck Willenborg, the Jays are 102-3 in Conference matches.

"We have won the Conference title over 10 times in a row, so it's always tough to have a target on your back," Cartledge said. "So far, we have handled that and the pressure that comes with being the favorite in every match really well and completed an undefeated Conference season."

Dubin is now tied for seventh in program history for singles victories as he sits at 53 wins. Along with his notable singles wins, Dubin is also ranked 12th in program history for total combined wins.

Walsh has also made notable strides throughout his career, moving up to tie for 10th in program history, earning his 105th victory last Saturday.

After clinching first place in the Centennial Conference, Hopkins will host the 2017 Centennial Conference Tournament on Friday, May 6 and Saturday, May 7. The Blue Jays will make their opening appearance at the Tournament against the winner of the Washington College and Franklin & Marshall College matchup.

"Our first goal is to win the Conference title," Cartledge said. "After that, we will take it match by match in the NCAA Tournament. We have been to the last four Elite Eights, so we would like to get back to that point and put ourselves in a position to contend for a Championship."

Despite losing senior captain Mike Buxbaum to injury earlier in the season, the Blue Jays continue to strive for their end-goal: the NCAA Championship.

"We have been working extremely hard, and a lot of credit has to go to Coach Willenborg for keeping the team focused and driven after losing [Buxbaum], who was a captain and our [best] singles and doubles player. I think that we have faced a lot of adversity this season, and that has molded us into a very tough team that can do really well at NCAAAs," Cartledge said.

# Defending The Crab: history of "The Rivalry"

By GREGORY MELICK  
Sports Editor

The matchup between Hopkins and the University of Maryland Terrapins, known as "The Rivalry," is the biggest rivalry in all of college lacrosse. Facing off for the first time in 1895, the 115-game series is skewed in favor of the Jays, who hold a 71-43-1 record after this weekend's loss.

More often than not, the matchup has big play-off implications: Either one or both of the schools has appeared in the NCAA Tournament in 28 of the 46 years the Championship has existed. Twice, the matchup decided which team would represent the United States at the Olympics, and in both instances, Hopkins beat out Maryland in a postseason tournament to represent the red, white and blue in the Olympic games.

In the 1928 and 1932 Olympics, lacrosse was a demonstration sport, played to give the sport more international exposure and hopefully gain wider popularity. The intention was that one day the game would be played for a medal.

One of the best stories of the rivalry does not involve the game itself but the bronze statue of a diamondback terrapin on the University of Mary-

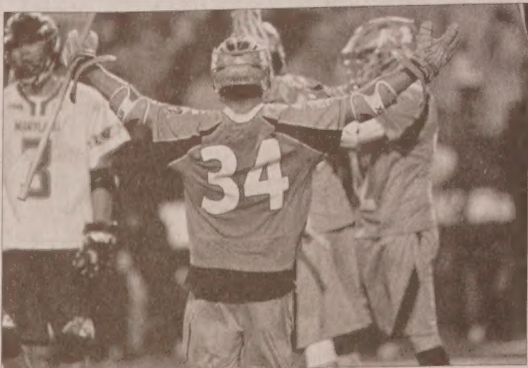
land campus nicknamed "Testudo." In 1934, just one year after Testudo was installed, a group of Hopkins students took the statue and wrote the letters "J.H.U." on it. The statue was later found and returned, but that was not the end for Testudo.

In 1947, another group of Hopkins students had the same idea; They stole the statue days before the homecoming game and buried it on Homewood campus. When 200 Maryland students showed up at Homewood demanding the statue back, state police were required to break up the ensuing fight.

After the brawl, Hopkins Dean G. Wilson Shaffer made the students return the statue, which they did, but not before painting a big "H" on Testudo's back.

This past weekend, excitement and anticipation rang through Homewood and College Park as both teams, ranked in the top-10, came together to celebrate the 122 year anniversary of "The Rivalry." The Blue Jays had not lost at College Park since 2001, but unfortunately, this Saturday's game started out poorly for the Jays and never got better.

It was not until after the first six minutes of play that either team scored, but once Maryland's junior



HOPKINSSPORTS.COM  
Michael Pellegrino celebrates after beating the Terrapins back in 2015.

Connor Kelly found the back of the net, the floodgates were open. Kelly would add two more goals by the end of the quarter.

In just eight minutes, Maryland tallied six points, and their defense shut the Jays out in the first quarter, putting the Terrapins ahead 6-0 at the end of the first. Moving into the second quarter, Maryland kept up the momentum, as they scored two more points before the Blue Jays could make it on the board. The Jays went to the locker room at halftime down 9-1.

For the remainder of the game, the Hopkins defense was able to keep the Terrapins relatively within their control, but it was already too late. The Jays fell to the Terrapins 12-5.

Despite the blowout, the Blue Jays had a few

bright moments, as junior faceoff specialist Hunter Moreland won 12 of 17 faceoffs, and graduate student goalie Gerald Logan had nine saves after entering the game in the second quarter. Furthermore, junior attack Shack Stanwick increased his point streak to 46 games with an assist in the third quarter.

This was the final regular season game for the Blue Jays, as they will enter the Big Ten Tournament this weekend seeded in third. The Jays will face host and number two seed, the Ohio State Buckeyes. The winner will take on the winner of the matchup between Maryland and Penn State, so there is a likely chance that the Blue Jays and the Terrapins will add another chapter to their historic rivalry before the season is over.

# Fallen NBA teams prepare for next season

NBA, FROM B12  
players and needs to extract as much worth from their most valuable assets as possible.

Up next are the Bulls' division mates, the Indiana Pacers, who were swept by the defending champions, the Cleveland Cavaliers. Similar to the Bulls, the Pacers have some important decisions to make with regard to the future of their key players, especially Paul George. He will be entering the second-to-last year of his contract, but George can opt out of the contract and become a free agent after next season.

The Pacers were in talks to trade him during the season, and there is a growing sense that he is ready to move on from the team with which he has spent the first seven seasons of his career.

On top of the questions surrounding George, Larry Bird is stepping down from his position as the team president. It may be time for Indiana to rebuild, using promising big man Myles Turner as their centerpiece for the future.

The Milwaukee Bucks, who were outlasted in six games by the Toronto Raptors, have an extremely bright future. Giannis Antetokounmpo has as much potential as any player in the League and will likely become a superstar for years to come. Khris Middleton, Malcolm Brogdon, Thon Maker and Jabari Parker — when healthy — make up one of the League's most promising young cores, which will be under the team's control for several more years. However, Milwaukee's window may be relatively brief: Once these players hit free agency, they will be difficult to retain in such a small market. The Bucks must capitalize on this opportunity before it vanishes.

The Atlanta Hawks fell to the Washington Wizards in six games and raise major concerns regarding the direction of their team moving forward. The most critical dilemma facing the Hawks this offseason will be deciding whether or not they should bring back Paul Millsap if he opts

It may be time for Indiana to rebuild, using promising big man Myles Turner as their centerpiece for the future.

Dennis Schröder and Dwight Howard in order to remain a contender in the improving Eastern Conference.

They no longer have DeMarre Carroll, Al Horford, Kyle Korver or Jeff Teague from the team that had the best record in the Conference two seasons ago. However, if they play their cards correctly this summer, they have a chance to stay relevant without undergoing a complete rebuild.

Now let's head out west, beginning with the Portland Trail Blazers, who were held without a victory against the Golden State Warriors. Portland is in an interesting situation; They were unable to replicate their surprising success from the previous season, but they still have a strong core centered around Damian Lillard and C. J. McCollum.

The Blazers certainly played better after acquiring Jusuf Nurkić from the Denver Nuggets during the season; However, he was hurt down the stretch, and his presence was sorely missed in the playoffs. With Lillard, McCollum and a full season of Nurkić, the Blazers may be one piece away from being

legitimate contenders in the west. Look for the Blazers to continue building around their young and uber-talented core over the summer.

The Memphis Grizzlies fell short in six games against their division foes — the San Antonio Spurs — but have a strong outlook going into next season.

Under the leadership of promising young coach David Fizdale, the Grizzlies appear to be headed in the right direction.

Veterans Marc Gasol and Zach Randolph are still putting up impressive numbers, while Mike Conley Jr., in the first year of his massive five-year, \$153 million deal, had arguably the best season of his 10-year career.

One player who will be a vital component of the team's success moving forward is Chandler Parsons. Parsons disappointed in the limited time that he played during his first year in Memphis; However, if he performs at the level that he played at in previous seasons, the Grizzlies can take their play to a whole new level and work their way up the Conference's hierarchy.

The Oklahoma City Thunder has a lot of work to do after being ousted by the Houston Rockets in five games. Oklahoma City is completely dependent on Russell Westbrook and must add numerous offensive weapons in order to be considered a legitimate contender. During the team's series against Houston, the Thunder was utterly embarrassed when Westbrook was off the court.

For their sake, this will hopefully be a wake-up call for them to prepare to have a busy summer. They must

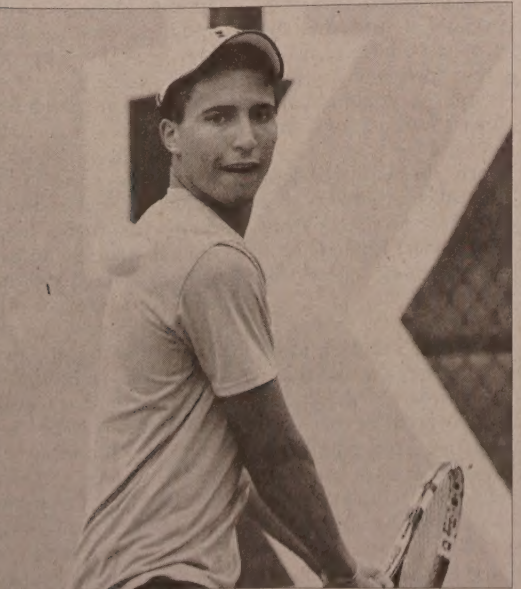
appease and provide help for Westbrook to insure that he remains a member of the team for the foreseeable future. Kevin Durant's departure from Oklahoma City was a serious setback. The Thunder cannot afford to lose Westbrook as well. It would be absolutely devastating for the franchise.

The Los Angeles Clippers pushed the Utah Jazz to the brink in their seven-game series but face major questions following yet another early postseason exit. The series went down to the wire, but the Clippers' loss of Blake Griffin turned out to be an insurmountable hurdle that they could not overcome.

Even if the Clippers had overcome the Jazz, they would have stood no chance against the Warriors. Despite having a core consisting of Chris Paul, Blake Griffin and DeAndre Jordan, this team was still a long way off from playing in the NBA Finals, or even the Conference Finals for that matter.

The Clippers have plenty of talent, but their current group has simply not meshed well enough for a deep playoff run. It is time for this team to mix things up; The most logical solution would be trading Blake Griffin before his contract expires after next season in exchange for a player at the level of a Carmelo Anthony or a Paul George. Whether or not this type of deal is possible or if the Clippers are prepared to make significant roster changes remains to be seen. However, the Clippers have had more than enough time to become a championship-caliber team, and it is in their best interest to make a deal before their window for contention closes.

While there are not as many marquee free agents this summer as there have been in previous years, the decisions that these teams make should make for noteworthy storylines throughout the offseason.



HOPKINSSPORTS.COM  
Aaron Carey clinched the Jays' victory to secure hosting privileges.



## SPORTS

# Who won and who lost in the NFL Draft?

By GAURAV VERMA  
Sports Editor

Throughout my life, one thing has remained constant: my love for the NFL draft. Ever since I was 10 years old, I have spent the weeks and months leading up to the Draft learning about the prospects and which players were good fits for which teams. I would count down the days until the draft and sit glued to the couch when the day finally came.

It is only fitting that my final article as Sports Editor is about the NFL draft. For many people, it is a long and boring event, but for me, it is an exciting sporting event. It is no hyperbole to say that franchises can be built and broken based on the decisions made on draft day.

Watching the draft unfold is a real-time display of strategy, drama and emotion. The draft and undrafted free agent process marks the unofficial end of the offseason, and at this point, teams for the most part know what their roster will look like at the start of training camp in July.

While there will certainly be more movement once the players hit the field, now is a good time to take an early look at which teams positioned themselves best for on-field success based on their performance in the draft last weekend in Philadelphia.

Some of the worst teams in the NFL last year did favorably in the draft this year: for instance, the San Francisco 49ers, the Cleveland Browns and the Jacksonville Jaguars. The 49ers walked away from the first round of the draft with two players who were considered top-10 talent: defensive end Solomon Thomas from Stanford University and linebacker Reuben Foster from the University of Alabama.

San Francisco desperately needed help on both sides of the ball, and Thomas and Foster could certainly help revitalize the defense. In Thomas, the 49ers pick up arguably the second best pass rusher in the draft, behind first overall pick Myles Garrett. Pass rush was one of the biggest needs for this team, and Thomas should be able to make an early impact. They were even able to add extra selections in a trade with the Chicago Bears.

Likewise, Foster is a top-10 talent but fell in the draft due to injury and character issues. He is a hard-hitting linebacker who can also drop back in coverage. Foster shined in the toughest conference in all of NCAA Football, the Southeastern Conference, and he should continue to do the same in the NFL.

Meanwhile, Cleveland was able to accumulate draft capital and make three solid first-round picks. With the first overall pick, the Browns wisely selected Myles Garrett instead of reaching for a quarterback. Countless teams have been burned in the draft by passing on top-talent in the early first round in order to pick a QB, but instead, the Browns chose to bolster their defense by selecting Garrett.

Later in the first round, Cleveland took one of the best athletes in all of college football from the University of Michigan: Jabrill Peppers. While Peppers

does pose some concerns as he lacks a clear position to play at the next level, his athleticism and versatility should add a lot to the Browns' defense.

The Browns' third first-round pick, tight end David Njoku out of the University of Miami, is an athletic prospect with a lot of potential, and many scouts believe he has Pro Bowl potential. Miami has produced a number of productive tight ends in the past, and Njoku could develop into a lethal weapon for Cleveland in the next couple years.

The Browns were also able to address their need for a quarterback, selecting DeShone Kizer from the University of Notre Dame, who is still raw as a prospect but has flashed a lot of potential.

Jacksonville continued their strong offseason, adding Louisiana State University running back Leonard Fournette, who should be a dynamic piece in the Jaguars offense. To open running lanes for their new running back, the Jaguars selected Cam Robinson, an offensive tackle from Alabama, at the top of the second round. Robinson was also considered an early first-round talent, but still represents good value in the early second round.

On the other hand, some of the NFL's greatest teams last year also did well in the draft, namely the New England Patriots and Houston Texans.

New England, the defending champions, used many of their draft picks to trade for established veteran talent such as Brandin Cooks, Kony Ealy, Dwayne Allen and Mike Gillislee, all of whom are upgrades for a team that already won the Super Bowl and is returning most of their key players.

In the draft, they most notably picked up pass rusher Derek Rivers from Youngstown State in the third round, addressing one of the only remaining holes on their roster with a small-school prospect who was projected to go higher.

The Texans were bold in their strategy, using a future first-round pick to trade up with Cleveland to add quarterback Deshaun Watson from Clemson University. They were finally able to add clarity to their murky picture at QB by acquiring one of college football's top talents.

They were also able to add a pair of quality prospects in Vanderbilt linebacker Zach Cunningham and University of Texas running back D'Onta Foreman in the second and third rounds, respectively.

After being forced to surrender a second-round pick in order to offload Brock Osweiler earlier in the offseason and missing out on signing former Cowboys QB Tony Romo, Houston will be relieved about how the draft turned out.

Ultimately, it will take time for us to figure out which teams actually did the best in the draft. As the great Tom Brady reminded all prospects this weekend, it matters not how you enter the League but what you do with the opportunity.

It is a League where late-round picks and undrafted free agents have gone on to shine, while top picks have failed. It will be exciting to see all these rookies hit the field in the fall.

By COURTNEY COLWELL  
For The News-Letter

After a 31-year-long Hopkins career, Women's Basketball Coach Nancy Funk announced her retirement last Tuesday. She leaves Hopkins with the most wins in program history.

"After much thought and careful consideration, I have decided to retire from the position I hold so dear as the head women's basketball coach at Johns Hopkins University," she said.

Funk's legacy will certainly live on for years to come. First beginning her coaching career at her alma mater, Messiah College, Funk garnered a 126-89 record in her first nine years of coaching.

Coming to Hopkins in 1986, Funk inherited a program that was coming off 11 consecutive losing seasons and five different coaches over a 12-year span.

But with a 12-10 winning season in 1988-89, Funk would come to radically alter the trajectory of a previously struggling Hopkins program. "Legendary Director of Athletics Bob Scott gave me a tremendous opportunity when he offered me this position. His guidance and support, along with that of his successors, Tom Calder and Alanna Shanahan, made it a blessing to work at this University that I love and respect so very much," Funk said.

## VITAL STATISTICS

**Record:** 537-264 (0.670)  
**Winning Seasons:** 26  
**NCAA Tournaments:** 10  
**Sweet Sixteens:** Three  
**Elite Eights:** Two  
**Conference Titles:** Four  
**All-Conference Players:** 80

One of Funk's favorite memories from her time at Hopkins was when the team made the NCAA Tournament for the first time under her leadership. After winning their first-round game, the Blue Jays hosted the Montclair State University Red Hawks.

With two minutes remaining in the game, Funk recalled, "I realized we were going to win, and it struck me that we were going to the Sweet Sixteen."

It would be the first of three trips to the Sweet Sixteen that Hopkins would make under Funk's guidance.

Today, the results of her hard-work and leadership are easy to see. Over her 31 years at Hopkins, Funk led the Jays to 537 victories, 26 winning seasons, four Centennial Conference Championships and 10 NCAA Tournament appearances. She ends her 40-year coaching career ranked eighth in NCAA Division III history in career victories with a final record of 663-353 (0.653).

Given this tremendous record, it is unsurprising that Funk has accumulated a variety of coaching honors over her years. She has been named both Centennial Conference Coach of the Year and WBCA Mid-Atlantic Coach of the Year twice throughout her career.

Funk's second Centennial Conference Coach of the Year title was earned in what will

now be known as her final season, when she led a young squad to a 13-12 record in the 2016-2017 season.

Being inducted into the Johns Hopkins Athletic Hall of Fame in 2015, Funk will be remembered for her accomplished coaching career.

Funk's legacy extends beyond just her impressive on-court performances. Off the basketball court, Funk was a mentor to other young Hopkins coaches. She served as senior women's administrator at the University for more than 10 years, held a three-year position on the NCAA D-III Women's Basketball National Committee and a six-year position on the Regional Committee.

Most importantly, she has served as a key advisor to hundreds of student athletes, including 80 All-Conference players.

Coach Funk attributes all this success to her assistants and players that have surrounded her throughout her career, especially Wanda Richardson, who has been Funk's assistant coach for 23 years.

"I am eternally grateful to them for my career," Funk said.

Though her players were certainly saddened to hear of their coach's retirement, the women's basketball team expressed a strong show of support for Funk's decision.

## IN COMMEMORATION: NANCY FUNK — WOMEN'S BASKETBALL



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Coach Nancy Funk has won more than 500 games.

"We were all a little surprised to hear Coach's decision to retire, but we understand that she needed to do what was best for her," sophomore guard Lillian Scott said. "Coach Funk put so much time and effort into the team, and her efforts are appreciated by all of us."

Sophomore forward Marissa Varnado added to this sentiment.

"The legacy Coach Funk will leave is almost incomprehensible to myself and my teammates, as we have only experienced a small portion of what was a career that transformed women's basketball at Hopkins," Varnado said. "In the past year, she has shown us what true resiliency is. After this long and successful of a career, she definitely deserves a restful retirement, and we are excited for what is to come for the program."

The national search for a new head women's basketball coach will surely begin soon, but one thing is for certain: it will be hard to find an individual who can live up to the tremendous legacy left by Nancy Funk. She will be widely missed by the Hopkins community.

## W. Lax pulls off big win against Rutgers

W. LAX, FROM B12

seconds after the whistle blew. Just 13 seconds later, Maffucci scored her second goal of the day on a free-position shot to improve the Jays' lead to 10-4. Schweizer followed suit shortly after to give the Jays a seven-goal lead before a full minute went by in the second half.

The Blue Jays continued their dominance as Fitzgerald scored her 28th goal of the season, making the game 12-4. Kenul secured her hat trick with help from Maffucci, and sophomore midfielder and attacker Nicole DeMase buried a shot with help from Schweizer. Schweizer followed up with her fifth goal of the day, and DeMase added another one after to put the Jays ahead 16-4.

The Scarlet Knights battled back late, scoring five straight to ease the bleeding, but the damage had already been done. Although Rutgers cut the lead to eight, Hopkins junior midfielder and attacker Caroline Shinske found the back of the net for the Blue Jays to put the final tally at 17-9.

Their victory over the Scarlet Knights earns the Jays a spot in the Big Ten Tournament in their first year competing in the Conference.

Hopkins finished out the regular season against the Towson Ti-

gers. As quickly as the Blue Jays had pounced on the Scarlet Knights, Towson did the same to the Blue Jays. The Tigers' attacker Carly Tellekamp scored just 36 seconds into the game.

Midfielder Kaitlyn Montalbano quickly followed by scoring her first of what would end up being a seven-goal day. Attacker and midfielder Natalie Sulmonte scored off of a free-position shot, and Montalbano scored two more to earn a hat trick less than 13 minutes into the game.

The Tigers' attacker Alyssa Ferro earned her team's sixth goal of the day, which was assisted by attacker and midfielder Samantha Brookhart, who also assisted on both

of Montalbano's goals. Tellekamp then scored her second goal of the day to put the Tigers up 7-0.

Maffucci put the Jays up on the board with an assist from Kenul before Towson ended the half with four straight goals. Tellekamp, midfielder Emily Gillingham, Montalbano and attacker Jenna Kerr all recorded goals as the half ended with Hopkins in the hole 11-1.

Fitzgerald scored her 29th goal of the season to start off the second half, but Sulmonte quickly answered to put the Tigers lead back to 10. Kenul again assisted on another goal by Maffucci, but Towson responded with five goals of their own.

Gillingham, Sulmonte, Tellekamp, Montalbano and Tellekamp again found the mesh to put the game at 17-3.

The Jays were able to score two goals to stem the damage, with DeMase and freshman midfielder Lexi Souder scoring in the final 10 minutes. Despite the Jays' attempt to fight back, Towson's midfielder Michaela Duranti notched one more goal for the Tigers. Towson came away with the 18-5 victory.

The Blue Jays finish the regular season at 11-6 as they prepare to travel down to College Park, Maryland. They take on the first-seed University of Maryland Terrapins in the opening round of the Tournament this Friday, May 5.



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Senior Haley Schweizer led the Blue Jays with six points in the win against the Rutgers Scarlet Knights.



# SPORTS

## DID YOU KNOW?

Hopkins had four players named to the 2017 All-Big Ten men's lacrosse team. Senior defender Nick Fields and junior midfielder Joel Tinney were named to the first team, while junior attacker Shack Stanwick and sophomore attacker Kyle Marr earned second team placement.

## CALENDAR

Thursday:  
M. Lax @ Ohio State; 7:30 p.m.  
Baseball vs. Gettysburg College;  
3 p.m.

Friday:  
W. Lax @ Maryland; 6 p.m.  
M. and W. Track; Centennial  
Conference Championships

## Loser at the end of the road in NBA playoffs



Daniel Landy  
DanLand

The first round of the NBA Playoffs has come to a close, and the results generally turned out as expected. The Utah Jazz were the only lower seed to advance, despite the fact that they had the same record as the Los Angeles Clippers, their opponents during the regular season. The Jazz were only a lower seed because of tiebreaking scenarios.

Along with the culmination of the first round comes the end of the road for the eight teams that were eliminated from championship contention. Let's examine these eight teams and explore their most viable options going forward.

Let's begin in the East-

ern Conference with the Chicago Bulls, who were eliminated by the Boston Celtics in a hard-fought six-game series. The Bulls looked good in the beginning of the series, stealing both of the opening games on the road in Boston. However, the absence of Rajon Rondo in the subsequent four games dramatically hurt the Bulls: They were never able to recover.

Rondo played a major role in the series' opening two games after struggling to play productively for much of the season. His role on the team for the foreseeable future is in question, as he is only under contract for one more season. Beyond Rondo, the Bulls must decide whether or not they should trade Jimmy Butler.

Dwyane Wade's future is also in the air, as he can opt out of his contract this summer. There is major uncertainty surrounding the Bulls' future, and they must make smart decisions this offseason. Chicago must avoid committing money to the wrong

NBA, SEE B10

## Terrapins blitz Jays in "The Rivalry" matchup



Meeting for the 115th time this past weekend, the Hopkins men's lacrosse team had their annual matchup against the University of Maryland Terrapins. Simply known as "The Rivalry," the matchup is the biggest among all of college lacrosse, dating back to their first meeting back in 1895. The Blue Jays fell behind early on, with the Terrapins leading 9-1 at halftime. Unfortunately, Hopkins was unable to make up for their slow start and lost their second Big Ten matchup this season. □□□

## INSIDE

### M. Tennis clinch home court advantage

After defeating the Swarthmore Garnet, the Hopkins men's tennis team will enter the Centennial Conference Tournament as the No. 1 seeded team and undefeated in Conference play.

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### Coach Nancy Funk to retire at end of season

After a tremendous 31-year career at Hopkins, Nancy Funk will retire her position as head coach of the women's basketball team. Funk shares some of her memories as she prepares to leave Hopkins this year.

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### The best decisions of NFL draft day

In his last article as Sports Editor for *The News-Letter*, senior Gaurav Verma looks back on the decisions that teams across the league made on this year's NFL draft day.

PAGE B11

## INSIDE

## W. Lax earns Big Ten Tournament berth

By BRANDON WOLFE  
For *The News-Letter*

As the school year winds down, so does the regular season for the Jays. In last week's matchups, the Jays defeated the Rutgers University Scarlet Knights 17-9 to clinch a spot in the Big Ten Tournament but fell to crosstown-rivals, the Towson University Tigers, 18-5.

Against Rutgers, the Blue Jays took only 12 minutes to take control, scoring the first five goals of the contest to quickly jump out to a 5-0 lead. Senior attacker Alexis Maffucci used a pass from junior midfielder Shannon Fitzgerald to start off the scoring. Two minutes later, junior attacker Emily Kenul followed suit with a free-position shot that found the mesh. Freshman attacker Maggie Schneidereith got help from junior defender Emily Verica to score the third goal of the day for Hopkins.

Soon after, senior midfielder Haley

Schweizer scored two goals just 19 seconds apart to give Hopkins a 5-0 lead.

The Scarlet Knights were finally able to get onto the scoreboard almost halfway through the first half when midfielder Kristina Dunphey capitalized on a free-position shot. The goal was only a slight break in the scoring for Hopkins, as Schneidereith, Schweizer and Kenul each buried another goal apiece to regain the momentum, putting the score at 8-1. Schneidereith and Kenul each had help from Fitzgerald, who led the team with three assists.

Rutgers began to find their groove in the final third of the first half, as Dunphey, attacker Joanna Reilly and midfielder Macy Scott each put a goal on the board for the Scarlet Knights. The half ended with Hopkins ahead 8-4.

The Blue Jays began the second half just as they had the first, with Schneidereith capturing the hat trick just 11

W. LAX, SEE B11

## Racism in professional baseball persists today



Andrew Johnson  
Comrade's Corner

On Monday night, the visiting Baltimore Orioles dispatched the Boston Red Sox 5-2. The win moved the O's into sole possession of first place in the American League East at 16-8, which would usually be a cause for celebration. However, the post-game press coverage was dominated by far more insidious incidents that occurred during the game.

Orioles Star center fielder Adam Jones reported that a fan had thrown a bag of peanuts at him during the game, while shouting out a number of racial slurs.

"I was called the N-word a handful of times tonight. Thanks. Pretty Awesome," Jones said.

Does Major League Baseball have a race problem? It's a question that many news outlets have grappled with in the wake of the Jones incident. The answer is and always has been clear. Yes. Unequivocally, yes.

Baseball is our country's national pastime. Baseball is firmly ingrained within our popular culture. It has dazzled and entertained generations of Americans. Baseball has a race problem because America has a race problem.

Racism has been firmly rooted within the foundation of our nation since its inception. Just as the

country has continued to grapple with race issues, baseball has continued to do the same.

For over 50 years, the owners and players of Major League Baseball (MLB) had operated under a gentleman's agreement, which barred African-American players from participation. It was not until 1947 that Jackie Robinson heroically broke the MLB color line when he suited up for the Brooklyn Dodgers.

Before and during games, Robinson would frequently be jeered with racial slurs from both fellow players and fans and would receive numerous death threats. Some of his teammates insisted that they would rather sit out games than play alongside him.

Our society has luckily made many strides since Robinson's debut almost 70 years ago. However, it would be foolish to suggest that racism has been entirely eradicated from the sport. The incident with Jones is just one of many which have occurred in recent years. Last year, for example, prominent radio broadcaster Colin Cowherd received major backlash after he suggested that Dominican baseball players lacked intelligence.

"The game is too complex? I've never bought into that, 'Baseball's just too complex.' Really? A third of the sport is from the Dominican Republic," Cowherd said. "Baseball is like any sport... It's mostly instincts."

The declining participation of African Americans in MLB is also concerning and suggests that the sport is alienating black fans and participants. Just 62 out of 862 players on opening day rosters in 2017 were African American, which constitutes less than eight percent of the League. As recently as 1986, the league was 18.3 percent African American. While a rise in hispanic participation certainly accounts for some of this decline, a 10 percentage point drop over a 30-year period is staggering.

In the days following the incident with Jones, many other black players have revealed their shared experiences. New York Mets outfielder Curtis Granderson suggested

that the amount of harassment he receives during road games transcends simple hatred of the other team; it is personal.

"You can really get a sense that people are upset at you rather than what you represent, regardless of playing ability," Granderson said.

Atlanta Braves outfielder Matt Kemp noted that racial slurs are an unfortunate part of gameday at ballparks across the country, and wishes that the League would do more to limit the problem.

"It's bad and like I said you got security guards and people there just sitting there letting it happen... MLB should step in and talk to some of these different stadiums, actually all of them and get this stuff together," Kemp

said. "It's unacceptable, as grown men we shouldn't have to worry about people throwing stuff at us."

Adam Jones believes that throwing perpetrators of racial intimidation out of the stadium is not enough. He believes these individuals should be fined thousands of dollars for their hateful rhetoric.

"That's how you hurt somebody. You suspend them from the stadium, what does that mean? It's a slap on the wrist," Jones said. "That guy needs to be confronted, and he needs to pay for what he's done."

Major League Baseball must be held more accountable for the actions of its fans. Severe penalties must be levied against those who intimidate players with racial slurs. However, that alone cannot be enough to eradicate the issue at hand. As long as bigotry and racist rhetoric endure in our society, racism will rear its ugly head within and across American institutions. People who resort to racial slurs to denigrate others should be banned from sports stadiums for life. However, we must consider how and why an individual has come to hold racist beliefs that manifest themselves at the ballpark.

The Adam Jones situation reminds us that America is not "post racial." The hearts and minds of many within this country are filled with an irrational hatred of those perceived as "outsiders" and baseball is not immune to this reality. The sport and those who follow it have made incredible strides. But on some nights, 2017 becomes 1947 all over again. And we are reminded that sports, society and politics are firmly intertwined.



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Junior Shannon Fitzgerald notched her 100th career goal this weekend.